

THE  
**Library Journal**

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO

**Library Economy and Bibliography**

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GENERAL LIBRARY  
UNIV. OF MICH.  
22 OCT 1895

## ANOTHER SHORT TALK TO LIBRARIANS.

AS an introduction to this talk, if you have not already done so, will you kindly read that given on same page of the September number of the JOURNAL? That referred chiefly to the "Indexer Books," this will be about the "Continuous Revolving Indexer." Next month we shall have something to say about the new "Pamphlet Binders," which we are convinced will solve the hitherto unsolved pamphlet problem in libraries.

We confess to belonging to that rather numerous class of Americans who are freer than they ought to be in the use of adjectives; hence, when called upon to describe something a good deal better than ordinary, we run short, so instead of following the usual beaten track, we shall try to give only cold facts.

When we took hold of the Rudolph Indexer some six or eight months ago, it was, even as then made, so marked an improvement on the old card system that we thought it about perfect. Experience soon demonstrated that very important improvements could be made, and we set about making them. In the meantime orders kept coming in which were pigeon-holed until the improvements could be perfected.

Formerly the card-holders were made of heavy cardboard with metal edges attached to the board and turned over to furnish the grooves. These were unsatisfactory for various reasons: they were unsightly; they swelled, warped, and shrank with the changes of the atmosphere; the fastenings to the metal would break loose; the hinges were imperfect, and the cards did not slide readily in the grooves. We now make them entirely of metal, weighing even less than the old style; the hinges are perfect and a slight pressure is sufficient to slide the whole column of cards, or any portion of them, up or down as desired.

One of the most serious objections for large libraries was that only one person at a time could consult the Indexer. We now propose to furnish them so that one, two, four, six, eight, ten, or twelve persons can use them at the same time. The case for twelve persons will be about 12 ft. long, 4 ft. wide, and will permit the indexing of from seventy-five to one hundred and twenty-five thousand volumes.

From the start we have had no fears as to the adoption of the Rudolph Indexer for all new libraries. The problem has been to adapt it to the use of the present cards, of which there are hundreds of millions in the libraries of the country. By the employment of metal card-holders and other changes in construction, we are able now to supply cases adapted to the utilization of the present cards in any library and their continued use if desired. This improvement applies also to the Indexer books and minimizes the expense of changing from the old to the new system.

Other changes and improvements have been made which we have not space here to enumerate. We shall commence filling orders for the improved cases about October 1st.

Write us fully for any information desired.

Respectfully yours,

THOMAS KANE & CO.

# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

VOL. 20.

OCTOBER, 1895.

No. 10

LIBRARIANS are again reminded that an annex conference, so to speak, is to be held this year in the South by grace of the enterprising ladies who are connected with the Woman's Department of the Atlanta Exposition. The date fixed is November 29—a date somewhat unfortunate at the North, because it does not admit of the safe digestion of the Thanksgiving dinner at home, but it should be matter of thanksgiving that the library spirit is to have promising development at the South, the section of the country, as has already been pointed out, where there is most opportunity for progress. We trust that every librarian who can will certainly go to Atlanta. It is ladies' day, to be sure, but the gentlemen will be welcomed, and will probably be permitted to speak as well as to hear. We appeal, therefore, to both the loyalty and the gallantry of the profession for a representative delegation from the North for this occasion.

It is sometimes true that distance lends enchantment to the view, and we are not fully informed whether the international bibliographical conference which met recently at Brussels is entitled to so large a name, or is, perhaps, the development of a private scheme. We have before us, however, the two pamphlets on the decimal classification issued by the projectors of this plan, one giving a general summary of the proposed modification, for international purposes, of Mr. Dewey's system, and the other giving details in the department of sociology. The first is in French exclusively; the second is in French, with an index in English, French, and German. The value of an international scheme is, of course, in its uniformity, and the system as perfected by Mr. Dewey is so widely in use in this country that it would be difficult to conform it to a new version at this late day. On the other hand, as this was devised before Mr. Dewey had library experience, it is doubtless true that decided improvements can be made on the original scheme under expert advice and

with the large experience of to-day. Messrs. La Fontaine and Oilet, of the International Bibliographical Office, have certainly brought forward an interesting subject, and we trust it may be taken up internationally, and thoroughly worked out.

PHILADELPHIA is commonly reputed by its critics to be a slow city, and the New York comic editor is apt to consider the tortoise characteristics of the City of Brotherly Love as a never-failing resource when the larder of fresher jokes is exhausted. Nevertheless, Philadelphia has more than once come to the front in library matters, and it is most interesting to note what remarkable progress has been made in its free library system in the few years since its origin. Starting with the small libraries conducted by the Board of Education, it was later extended by the transfer to the city of the Free Library of Philadelphia, established independently by the bequest of Mr. George S. Pepper, which, although under the direction of the city, and receiving from it a yearly appropriation, has been heretofore conducted independently of the various city libraries. An ordinance now pending, however, provides for the consolidation of the two systems under the control and direction of the Free Library, which is to receive and administer all municipal appropriations for library support. It is to be hoped that this consolidation may be carried out, as it would be not only beneficial as a means of securing economy and unity in administration, but would be a great stride toward the attainment of a free library system worthy of the city in size and equipment. A further indication that the plan of consolidation is gradually gaining ground is found in the recent offer of the president of the Mercantile Library, noted elsewhere. The trustees of that library express their desire to make the library free to the public on condition that it receive an appropriation from the city. This sounds very promising,

but it is more than doubtful if the offer, as it now stands, will be or should be accepted. No change in the real ownership or management of the library is contemplated by its trustees, and although three ex-officio trustees from the city government would be added to the board, the library would maintain an independent existence, simply throwing its doors open to the public. Under these circumstances it would by no means serve as a central city library, consolidating and administering the entire free library system of the city. There can be little doubt that a central library will eventually be obtained, be its nucleus the Free Library of Philadelphia or the Mercantile Library, and in the meantime Philadelphia is certainly setting an example to many cities in its present library progress. New York must, perhaps, wait the more full development of the new library scheme under the consolidation of the great libraries, and Brooklyn has yet to make a start.

THE death of Miss Jessie Allan is doubly sad because of the excellent reputation which her work won for her and the pleasant affection which all librarians who knew her had come to feel for her, and because her death has given rise to a fresh discussion as to the possibility of infection from contagious diseases through library books. Miss Allan had been suffering from consumption for some years, and it has been suggested that its origin was of this character. Those who knew Miss Allan and the delicate organization which did so much good work in a good cause, would scarcely need this explanation of her illness and death, which is perhaps scarcely in evidence as to the difficult question of the spread of disease through libraries. Possibly there is some danger from this source; since the bacillus was discovered danger is found to lurk in places hitherto unsuspected. But the greater danger, perhaps, comes in over-estimating this source of danger and frightening people into a nervous condition which in itself almost invites disease. Doubtless, when contagious diseases are rampant in one locality, the public library, like the schools, like all places where people come together, becomes a centre for the possible spread of an epidemic; but the danger in most cases is so small a percentage of the possible risk that, under the influence of a discussion like the present, librarians are apt to overdo precaution and create unnecessary alarm. The mere fact that life in the city is apt to be as long, if not longer, than

life in country places, is in itself evidence that centres of population are not necessarily the dreadful places that the theory of the bacillus might suggest, and the same is true in its degree of the public library.

### Communications.

#### CHILDREN'S READING-LISTS WANTED.

THE Plainfield Public Library would be very glad to receive copies of lists of books for young people. Any librarian who has published such a list will confer a favor by sending a copy to our address. All lists received will be promptly acknowledged.

EMMA LOUISE ADAMS.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, }  
PLAINFIELD, N. J. }

#### THE TWO-BOOK METHOD AT PRATT INSTITUTE FREE LIBRARY.

I REGRET that the Pratt Institute Free Library was not able to send an account of its two-book system for your recent symposium on that subject, as it did not adopt the system until September 1. We have for a long time given two books on a teacher's card, provided one was not fiction, and we have now extended the privilege to all borrowers, even children. Our system of charging in these cases is as follows:

Only one book of fiction is allowed the borrower at one time. Fiction may be kept one week and all other works two weeks. Only one card is used by the borrower and different colored stamping-ink is used to distinguish fiction from non-fiction. The borrower's card is divided into parallel columns marked "taken" and "returned."

When a work of fiction is drawn the following method is employed:

1. The dating-slip in the book is stamped with date of issue and date when due.
2. The borrower's registration number is entered on the book-card and also the date.
3. The borrower's card is stamped in blue in the column marked "taken."

When the book drawn is not fiction the same method is employed, except that the date on the borrower's card is stamped in green.

When a book is returned the date of return is stamped in red in the column marked "returned," directly opposite the date taken. Thus if the book returned is fiction, the check is made opposite the blue date; if not fiction, opposite the green date.

By the use of these two colors to distinguish between the two classes of books all confusion is avoided, as the attendant at the return-desk is able to tell at a glance which date to check off, even if the books are returned at different times.

The system has been in operation since September 1 and we think it is going to be satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

MARY W. PLUMMER.

PRATT INSTITUTE FREE LIBRARY, }  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. }



## PRINCIPLES OF SELECTION OF BOOKS.\*

By MARY S. CUTLER, *Vice-Director N. Y. State Library School.*

THE subject assigned to me is the principles which should guide in the selection of books for a small library, which term, for purposes of discussion, shall mean from 500 to 5000 volumes.

The work of the American Library Association for the last 17 years, the willingness on the part of all librarians to go out of their way to help the new libraries, and in New York state the library law of 1889 and the Public libraries department have made the organization of small libraries specially easy.

The problem of the selection of books is the most difficult one the small library has to face.

There are three things necessary to a successful library—good books, good methods, and a good librarian. To my mind, good books and a good librarian are infinitely more important than good methods. But in these days it is about as easy to have good methods as antiquated ones, and certainly trustees have no excuse for starting out with anything less than the best. These should in all cases be simple, economical, and practical, having due regard to probable growth. By methods I would include not simply cataloging and classification, but everything that has to do with the attractiveness of the library rooms and the comfort of the reader.

Nor do I think it difficult to secure in any town a local librarian who can be trained to carry on the simple methods which have been adopted, and who shall be active, alert, wise, and hospitable in making the library available to every reader.

The real problem now remains—the selection of books. 1. For the original library. 2. For the expenditure of the small appropriation for new books.

1. It is seldom that a new library is built from the foundation. There is usually a collection of old books to start with, often the combination of several old collections. It is a case requiring heroic treatment. They should be gone over carefully and all those not well suited to the library should be thrown out. To do this requires courage, but it pays.

For the selection of the original library the "A. L. A. library catalog" will probably be used as the basis, supplementing this with the

New York travelling library lists and the catalogs of other small libraries.

2. The selection of new books for the library. I will consider here the principles which underlie selection, though they would also apply to a considerable extent to the selection of the original library.

a. Who shall select? b. What shall he select? c. How shall he select?

(a.) Who. Who will be competent and willing to study the field, *i.e.*, the books and the readers, so that the small yearly appropriation shall in his hands produce the best possible results? In many cases the librarian will not be fitted for it. If not, it will be done by some member or members of the library committee.

There are three requisites—abundance of time, knowledge of books, and sympathy with the popular taste. I believe that, if possible, the library committee would do well to put the responsibility in the hands of one of their number, reserving the veto power for exceptional cases. This plan would be effectual only on condition that the person selecting secured the co-operation of a large number of persons. This can easily be managed in a town or village by a person with a wide acquaintance.

It is important to get a great variety of points of view. Above all avoid the literary bias. It is so easy for things to fall into the hands of a small clique of dilettanti, with a fine appreciation of the best literature, but entirely lacking in sympathy with the sturdy life and thought of every-day people. Books should be ordered on approval, then they should be wisely distributed and read before purchased. Children's books should be read by children to see if the book is interesting, then by some one who makes a special study of juvenile literature to see if it is up to the required standard.

Novels should be read by persons of widely differing tastes. Specialists should be used with care. They are of unusual service in a college library, but it is hard to find one who has any respect for a book on his own subject written from a popular standpoint. I would rather say, get help from those who take a special interest in a subject, and inform themselves on it without being specialists; *e.g.*, a book on amateur photography might be submitted to an amateur photographer.

\* Paper read before the N. Y. Library Association, New York, Jan. 11, 1895; Buffalo, May 17, 1895.

(b) What? The idea of completeness, unless in the line of local history, should be banished. It is, perhaps, an instinct of a scholarly mind. It is also the refuge of the lazy and ignorant buyer. To buy all the books of an author, or all the books in a series, for the sake of completeness is the worst possible policy. A very few authors may merit such distinction, but it should be because each book has proved its claim on the needs of the library, not on the ground of completeness. It is even more dangerous to get all the books of a series, for even reputable publishers yield to the temptation of working cheap books into a really valuable series.

The strength of a small library is in a perfect adaptation of means to end; i.e., books to readers. It makes itself ridiculous by following the aims of an encyclopædic library, which it can never attain.

In a small library a dull book, an inappropriate book, is not only of no service to the library, it is a positive injury. Two or three such books will often lose for you permanently a reader whom you have been beguiling to use the library. For the same reason a strong policy regarding gifts is imperative.

As a rule omit law and medical books, paper-covered books and all books purely technical, unless the latter are likely to be used by a considerable number of people. However, if managed with care, it is desirable to buy technical books for a few people where they cannot afford to buy them for themselves.

Regard should be had to balance of subjects, though it is unwise to follow a hard-and-fast rule. It is well to bear this in mind whenever additions are made, which should be at least once a quarter, or, better, once a month. At the end of the year neglected subjects should be filled up.

In making additions current books will naturally use up a large share of the funds, possibly two-thirds, but the remaining one-third should be carefully reserved for the regular addition of standard works and of old books needed to meet demands of the readers.

Close observers of the reading in popular libraries tell us that children and untutored adults do not enjoy reading short stories; also that many children are exceedingly fond of poetry. The contrary would seem likely to be true. The fact is, therefore, worth mentioning from its relation to selection. It suggests the desirability of studying the circulation.

It is well to bear this in mind when planning the charging system. In the book-card system which is generally used, the addition of the author and title to the call number of each book on its book card will expedite this study of the circulation. Of course, purchases should not be in direct proportion to circulation. 80% of the circulation might be fiction; it should not for that reason form 80% of the library.

(c) How? The *Publishers' weekly* is indispensable. The *Nation*, *Critic*, *Dial*, and *Literary world* are the most useful critical journals. The following plan is approved by the usage of some of the best medium-sized libraries:

Check in the *Publishers' weekly* all books likely to be wanted, cut out and mount on slips. Annotate titles with abbreviated references to critical articles. When ready to order, select the most timely and useful books in the list, leaving the others as a reserve fund. Order on approval. Add to slips opinions of those who have read or examined the books.

When reading reviews one not infrequently finds an admirable concise criticism or evaluation of an author. Copy these on slips and arrange alphabetically by authors. It will be of service to the person selecting and to his successor. It will not be worth while for standard authors; but it will be specially useful for authors who are authorities on special subjects.

I will give two or three illustrations of this idea:

JACOBS, Joseph.

"Mr. Joseph Jacobs has made an honorable name among folklorists, and is the editor of the official organ of the English Folk-lore soc." *Christian Union* bk. annual. 5 D. 91. p. 1141.

FREDERIC, Harold.

"As the London correspondent of the *N. Y. Times* he has distinguished himself as almost the only competent letter-writer fr. the Old World to the New. . . . He sometimes has a curious squint which prevents his seeing straight; but for good, all-round work, great industry, and capacity for saying what he has to say in clear, interesting English, Mr. Harold Frederic is the best of English correspondents." . . . *Review of Reviews*, S 91, 4: 227.

HEARN, Lafcadio.

"Mr. Hearn is a student of style. After that he is a dreamer of dreams, and somewhat later still a collector of facts. . . . There is masterly variation. But whatever the form and whatever the matter, the strife is always for effect. It is almost always artistic, but it is rarely free

from the impression of self-consciousness." (See N. Y. *Daily Tribune*, 28 O'94, p. 14, column 41.)

This principle is used to advantage in Mr. Lemcke's extremely useful "Catalogue of German literature."

The whole subject of the selection of books is a fascinating one. I have only touched it on the surface. It is a subject which is to appear oftener on library programs and occupy more and more the attention of the best librarians. I believe that 10 years from now we shall be

ashamed of the libraries of to-day, because they are collections, not selections. I am glad that the program of this meeting does not stop at principles of selection, but goes on to discuss individual books. This has already been done in the meeting of the Massachusetts library club and will be an important feature of the A. L. A. meetings. Why should we compare notes on charging systems, book supports, and entry of pseudonyms and be afraid to talk about the books themselves? "This ought ye to have done and not to have left the other undone."

#### DIRECTORIES IN PUBLIC REFERENCE LIBRARIES.

By REUBEN G. THWAITES, *Secretary State Historical Society of Wisconsin.*

I WONDER how many of our large public reference libraries are in the habit of accumulating miscellaneous city and state directories, old and current? Not many, I fancy; yet, if members of our craft generally understood the practical value of these, in numerous lines of research, there would be a wider demand for this now largely neglected class of books.

I have visited many an ambitious city library, whose otherwise enterprising chief has looked me to scorn when I inquired whether he had a full file of his own city directories — "We have no room for 'such rot!'" Yet, if you will bear with me, these contemporary lists of the city's inhabitants, together with full files of the local newspapers — the daily mirror of the city's life — would be quite as important on his shelves as anything else he has there; more so than many of his volumes.

The duty of each city librarian to collect local directories and newspapers is to me so self-evident that it seems superfluous to argue the matter. What I would like to do is to call the attention of reference librarians to the value of general collections of directories. The office of the reference library is to supply information to the public, be it practical or æsthetic, and several classes of persons in every large community find miscellaneous directories of great importance to them: the genealogist, the biographer, the student of names, eagerly pore over these dusty old books and find in them many a missing link; detectives tracing the whereabouts of criminals, and lawyers hunting heirs to estates could ill dispense with directories; postal officials seeking clues for forwarding "blind" mail matter, where perhaps a New Orleans street is inadvertently written on an envelope intended for Winnipeg, need direc-

tories and plenty of them; and not altogether to be despised is the man who wishes to select addresses to which more or less appropriate circulars may be mailed. A wide range of queries, many of them of supreme importance, are answered by the directories; any keeper of a collection of them can tell you curious tales of his experiences which would make good material for the fiction-writers — I do not now recall that any one has yet given us a directory story. I make no charge for thus suggesting a new and fertile field to A. L. A. members who are ambitious to load the magazines with out-of-hours' copy. In a variety of ways — commercial, professional, and literary — collections of directories are of real value, and they are eagerly sought. Public librarians are seldom appealed to for this sort of thing, for it is generally recognized as a field which not many of them enter; a few historical societies and state libraries do something in this line, more or less spasmodically, but there is room for some large reference library, centrally located, with ample means, to make a record here; its collection will not lack patrons.

Meanwhile, the leading directory men themselves are, in some measure, meeting the public demand for this sort of literature. By exchange or purchase, sometimes by both, many of them have in their central offices considerable libraries of current dictionaries of other American and foreign cities, those of say four years of age being removed from the cases as fast as the latest crop comes in. All publishers in cities of the first class — with the exception of the Trow Directory Co., of New York — and many of those of the second class, make a practice of exchanging directories in order to accommodate

their own customers. The Trows, who keep a collection covering 500 cities — probably the largest in America — purchase the books direct, and will not exchange; they themselves furnish advertisers with lists of names, and contract to address and mail circulars.

The regulations for the public use of these directory libraries vary greatly. I think the Trows make no charge for single consultations, but impose a fee for the use of the books when lists are copied from them; in St. Louis the Gould Directory Co. charges 25 cents for each single reference, and in Chicago Polk charges 10 cents. I have been told that Boyd, of Washington, employs in his library five or six young women to wait upon customers, and charges two dollars for a three hours' consultation; and I have it from what seems good authority, that a not uncommon rate in several other cities is a dollar for the detailed use of each directory. The Postmaster-General orders a copy of each of the leading directories for each of the first and second class post-offices, but these are not open to the public.

The principal directory libraries in the United States, accessible to the public, and covering

from 50 to 500 cities each, are in Albany, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Hartford, Jersey City, Kansas City, Louisville, Milwaukee, Nashville, New York, Omaha, Philadelphia, Richmond, San Francisco, St. Louis, Syracuse, Topeka, and Washington; there is also one at Toronto. For commercial purposes these collections of current directories doubtless serve their patrons sufficiently well; but, as above pointed out, none of them keep up their files for more than a few years back; thus they are of little avail to the student in history and sociology, whose investigations, as often, indeed, do those of the estate or criminal lawyer, cover a far wider period than this. Without injuring the business of those who maintain private libraries of current directories, any public librarian, in a large town, who has abundant resources of space and money, can at least gather and preserve the old directories, and make himself blessed to many searchers for facts; indeed, he will not need much money for this purpose if he is intrenched in the good graces of the local directory firm, and contents himself with the castaways of the latter's growing collection.

#### FICTION IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.\*

BY EDWIN H. WOODRUFF, *Librarian of Leland Stanford, Jr., University.*

THIS topic, as a matter for discussion by librarians, is undoubtedly somewhat frayed; and probably the final word will never be uttered upon the subject. But as it is said that charity is extremely beneficial to the giver, even though it may not add greatly to the welfare of the recipient, so perhaps we may be permitted to talk over this old question merely for the purpose of clarifying by expression our own more or less unsettled views, though the process may not add to our neighbors' information or change their opinions.

Moreover, the subject is large enough to offer ample room for consideration. Fiction deals largely with human emotions and their operations, and on this side we skirt the rugged domain of ethics. Its instrument is literary form, and here we are brought alongside the pleasant field of aesthetics. And to ask whether the city or state should supply fiction for the amusement of the people is to be launched into the irrepressible conflict that political scientists

and economists are waging over individualism and socialism.

At the 1894 meeting of the American Library Association the question of fiction in public libraries was again brought up, the addresses having been elicited by this question: "Is the free public library justified in supplying its readers . . . books of entertainment only, such, for example, as the ruck of common novels?" It is not, "for example," the ruck of common histories, such as Froude's seemed in the eye of Freeman, or the ruck of popular scientific works — "Oh, my! science," as it is called by the impassive and relentless Simon Pure scientific investigator. But it is the "ruck of common novels." It turns out that "ruck," according to the dictionary, is a harmless word and means only the common run. But whatever the dictionary says one feels the contemptuous implication. So, too, in following back, through the volumes of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, the abstracts of the annual reports of public libraries, one remarks the tone of despair with which one public librarian refers to the in-

\* Read before the Library Association of Central California, San Francisco, May 10, 1895.



crease of two per cent. in the circulation of fiction in his library, and the corresponding outburst of joy by another librarian at the reduction of three per cent. in the circulation of fiction in his library. At the Chicago conference of librarians in 1893 a summary was given of answers to requests for opinions by librarians upon the circulation of fiction. And it was to this effect: "The American Library Association, voiced by 60 of the 75 librarians to whom letters were sent, gives forth no uncertain sound as to the necessity and duty of restricting the provision for fiction (novels, strictly so speaking) to the smallest possible quantity of the best quality."

Does this not indicate that we are always placing fiction on the defensive? It is true that such prejudices may have arisen from the librarian's honest care for the soul of the reader and may be based upon actual observation of the evil effects of fiction-reading. But it may well be asked if much of the prejudice is not an inherited relic from our Puritanic great-grandparents, to whom story-books were silly and wicked and who found the imaginative side of *their* natures fully terrified and satisfied with a blazing description of "the other place" which, in a two-hour sermon, some local Jonathan Edwards could pave with the incandescent skulls of unbaptized infants.

If this is an evil to be suppressed, what is its extent?—what is the strength of the enemy? The Chicago summary just referred to shows that in response to the question, "What is the per cent. of issue of fiction in your library?" over 50 replies were received and that the average yearly issue of fiction was 56 per cent. The lowest was eight per cent., the highest 80. The fact that one library shows only eight per cent. issue probably indicates that at least one library was included that did not pretend to supply fiction. It is not unlikely that 56 per cent. was somewhat of an underestimate; for in going through the abstracts of the annual reports for 1891-2, as given in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, and taking the public and subscription libraries as they come, it will be found that the average issue of fiction for 54 libraries was 68 per cent. This list included libraries of all sizes and in various parts of the country, from the great Boston Public Library, which issued 73 per cent., to the small library at Santa Rosa, California, which issued 63 per cent. The highest was the Carnegie Library, Allegheny City, with 90 per cent., and the lowest the Cleveland Library,

with 42 per cent. Among those issuing the larger per cent. were Chelsea, Mass., 85 per cent., Jersey City, 86; and the lower per cent., Lawrence, Mass., 43, and Cambridge, Mass., 45.

It is not an unreasonable approximation to say that the average annual per cent. issue of fiction in the public libraries in this country is 68 per cent. But this is not so appalling as it seems. It practically means that of every three volumes issued (not to the same person, of course) two are fiction and one is not fiction. It is to be noted that the library is not therefore filling 68 per cent. of the reading time of its constituents with fiction, for, say that at a liberal estimate it takes one-third as long to read a novel as to read a scientific or historical book in order to get the ascribed benefit of the instructive book, then 68 should be divided by 3 and the result compared with 32 in order to determine whether the public library is devoting itself chiefly to the improvement or entertainment of its readers.

But let us grant that the public library fills with imaginative literature, of a more or less high order, 68 per cent. of the time that its constituents give to books. Is this, on the whole, such an undue proportion as to be injurious? Here, to be fair, one must ask whether the total amount of time given to the reading of imaginative literature supplied by the public libraries is extravagant when one considers it with reference to the total amount of time given by the same persons, under the stress of modern life, to work always present or impending.

A tentative classification of those to whom the library supplies fiction, and an inquiry into the purpose for which they read it, may determine whether 68 per cent. issue of fiction is an evil of the magnitude it seems, and whether this demand is not in response to a legitimate need.

First, then, as to the professional man—lawyer, scholar, or doctor—who works chiefly with his trained intellect. These readers may be dismissed briefly, as they probably do not rely upon public libraries for their fiction. But, nevertheless, instances of novel-hunger among such men shows how imperatively those who are under the pressure of brain-work demand to be taken out of themselves. You will recall those passages in "Darwin's life and letters" in which we find him resting every day in the forenoon between 9:30 and 10:30 with a novel being read to him, and again in the afternoon resting and listening to a novel or other



book not scientific, and again, after an hour's work, returning to the novel once more. His son says: "He was extremely fond of novels, and I remember the pleasure with which he would anticipate having a novel read to him. He took a vivid interest in both plot and character, and would on no account know beforehand how the story finished." Darwin himself says: "Novels which are works of the imagination, although not of a very high order, have been for years a wonderful relief and pleasure to me, and I often bless all novelists. A surprising number have been read to me, and I like all, if moderately good and if they do not end unhappily—against which a law ought to be passed. A novel, according to my taste, does not come under the best class unless it contains some person whom one can truly love, and if a pretty woman, all the better." These instances are not amiss, for if such men, with the larger lives they live, find a happy relief in fiction, how much more do those who work with their hands need some of the life and movement of the novel. But the men of intellect who read novels do not ask the solicitude of the public librarian. Indeed, any attempt to correct their novel habit would be an impertinence.

To turn now to a second class of fiction-readers, namely those persons of too considerable leisure who read novels to kill time, and are not under the necessity of doing useful things for themselves, or even of knowing about the useful things that others are doing for them. Of this class Lydia Languish is the type. How many librarians join with Sir Anthony Absolute in his exclamation, when they think of the Lydias who devour "Reward of constancy" or the "Mistakes of a heart": "A circulating library in a town is an evergreen-tree of diabolical knowledge which blossoms through the year; and depend upon it, Mrs. Malaprop, that they who are so fond of handling the leaves will long for the fruit at last." But let us not worry for the fate of these readers. The Lydia of to-day is not languishing; she is knowing, and takes her story with a grain of salt, and the class is getting smaller for causes which the librarian does not control. The many opportunities now open to women, in which they may find pleasant employment for their faculties, rids them of the necessity they formerly felt of living their lives through novels, because they could not live them in the working world.

There is a third and very important group of

fiction-readers for whom the librarian feels a wise concern—the children. Here, no doubt, there is real responsibility; somebody, whether it be parent or librarian or teacher, or all three, should guide the reading of children. But above all do not let us feel that we should guide the child away from stories, but through them, and as we go through them let us not hurry, but saunter. How many librarians think that they are ordained to snare a live boy with Oliver Optic, put him into anæsthetic dreams by a book of travel, kill him with a large dose of history, and then stuff the remains with popular science. This is to think that the boy has but one side to his nature—his insulated intellect. A board having but one side is a pretty thin board. The true line of progression on this side of his nature is from Oliver Optic to Thackeray and George Eliot, not from Oliver Optic to Kant's "Critique of pure reason." He should be able to feel as well as to know. Matthew Arnold tells of an English youth who, when called upon to paraphrase this line in "Macbeth," "Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?" turned it into "Can you not wait upon the lunatic?" and adds: "If I were driven to choose, I think I would rather have a young person ignorant about the moon's diameter but aware that 'Can you not wait upon the lunatic?' is bad, than a young person whose education has been such as to manage things the other way." It is proper for the librarian to direct the reading of the young so far as he can. But while he is doing so he ought not to be rigid with the conviction that the ultimate aim of the child's reading should be Herbert Spencer, and that any tendency Thackerayward should be checked. It would seem that with the inordinate amount and variety of knowledge that is crammed into school-children at present it is not impossible that the time may come when the librarian will find it incumbent upon him to turn about and shunt off the child from Herbert Spencer and toward Thackeray. At any rate, it is a fair question to ask if the reading of imaginative literature by children is really excessive when we consider the unrelenting efforts that are given to their instruction about the unvarnished prose facts of human existence.

There is one other class of fiction-readers left to consider. These are the wage-earners. Some 25 years ago a philanthropist in New York State founded a great university in which students were to acquire a university educa-

tion and at the same time do profitable manual labor. The institution is a great university still, but the original idea was abandoned early. It was found that the student's energy has a limit, and that if all is given to manual work nothing is left for mental work. The librarian of the Carnegie Library, Allegheny City, says in his report for 1892, "It may safely be stated that the majority of readers are from the great middle or working class." And it is in that city we find the largest per cent. issue of fiction. Here is the testimony from another manufacturing town. The librarian of the Bronson Library, Waterbury, Ct. (LIBRARY JOURNAL, 17: 48), after long attention, says he is convinced that the large per cent. of fiction means that we are an overworked people. The kind of labor performed by three-quarters of the operators demands unremitting attention, and probably no other means so innocent can be found to take the place of fiction. Miss James, the librarian of the People's Palace, London, says: "Fiction is most popular; I do not deplore the fact. Most of it is standard literature, and we East Enders have so little imagination that no harm is done in stimulating this faculty."

The hard grind of daily toil tends to limit the emotions and make them automatic. The feelings, except those that are primitive, tend to stagnate. They need to be stirred, rectified, and how can this be done more innocently than by imaginative literature, even though crude and inartistic, if it is honest and clean. It seems to me that in a community of working people even 90 per cent. issue of fiction is none too great if 10 hours a day are given to the struggle for reasonable existence. There are some ambitious artisans who want to read something other than fiction, and to these the library should afford every opportunity. But the fact remains that the vast majority of wage-earners most likely need, and should therefore have, such clean fiction as they may ask for, even though it makes the per cent. issue of fiction run up to 90. As a result of this view of the needs of readers is, then, the 68 per cent. issue of fiction, shown by the statistics from public libraries of the United States, really excessive?

But if it is an evil, what are the remedies? Novels may be roughly classified as follows:

First, classics, among the older of which we may name Fielding, Smollett, and Richardson; and among the modern, George Eliot, Thackeray, and Dickens.

Second, the common run, varying in the de-

grees of commonness from Hardy, Black, and Howells to Roe, Holmes, and Southworth.

Third, the vicious and immoral, such, for example, as those of the so-called decadents.

Novels of the first class are not likely to be harmful. They belong to the history of literature and their style is not in accord with modern tastes. The second-named class is not harmful, unless, like every other thing harmless in itself, it is used to excess. Whether, considering the conditions of modern life, it is likely to be used to excess I have tried to show. And just here, in connection with this class, it may not be superfluous to say one word in favor of much of what is called sensational fiction. It may be thought that by squeezing out sensational fiction, the quality of a library is being absolutely improved; but it is just this sensational fiction that bridges the gap between the *Police Gazette*, which libraries, of course, cannot keep on hand, and something better. And there is no other way for the helplessly and not hopelessly depraved to get across the gap than by using sensational fiction. Such fiction may be violating good taste and to the intellectual reader may seem puerile. But if it is not immoral it would seem to have a legitimate place in the public library.

The third class of fiction ought to be excluded from the public library; if the professional man or person of leisure wants it he should buy it himself; it should be kept from the young, and the working people do not want it. These want, like Darwin, a novel that ends happily, and in which at least there is one character the reader may love.

In conclusion and for the benefit of those who think that 68 per cent. issue of fiction is excessive, let me enumerate some remedies that have been successful. First, the formation of literary reading clubs. These may change to a considerable extent the character of the reading of the leisure class. Second, the establishment of vital relations between public school and public library. This may effect a change in the character of books read by the young. Third, the placing of new books where the public may see them. This may entice the attention of readers of any class away from fiction. Fourth, the personal influence of the librarian and his assistants in turning the people from fiction to some other kind of literature. But the librarian should be quite sure that the reader whom he is enticing away from fiction ought to be enticed from fiction.

### A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE AT BRUSSELS.

THE Office International de Bibliographie, which was successfully launched under the patronage of the Belgian Government last year, held a conference at the Hôtel Ravenstein, Brussels, September 2-4. The conference was determined upon too late in the season to secure the international character to which its interest and its importance entitled it, although the number of communications received by the committee showed that the plan had aroused general interest among bibliographers.

At the opening session between 40 and 50 members were present when M. le Chevalier Lescamps-David, the president, welcomed the delegates. Among them were M. Fétis, the venerable chief librarian of the Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels; A. J. Wauters, Stainier, Limousin; J. Carl, and Paul Bergmans. The primary object of the congress was explained by one of its principal organizers, M. Henri Lafontaine, who described it as an attempt to arrive at a general system of cataloging at once simple and scientific. The system proposed is known as the *classification décimale* and is founded on the Dewey D. C., which has been modified in various details by MM. H. Lafontaine and P. Otlet, the directors of the Office International de Bibliographie. As a practical illustration of their system, MM. Lafontaine and Otlet exhibited a "Bibliographia Sociologica," in which over 4000 books are classified and cataloged. At the congress the system was the subject of much and severe criticism, but the first session concluded, after much discursive argument, with the resolution that the conference considered the decimal system highly satisfactory from a practical point of view, and in view of the general application of the Dewey system, recommended its integral adoption by bibliographers throughout the world.

The second day's session was largely controversial, and covered many questions which were discussed with animation. The leading subject was the advisability of instituting, or rather of creating international bibliographical unions, and a resolution was passed to press the project on the Belgian Government. The constitution of the Office International de Bibliographie was discussed at length and with divergence of opinion. In the end it was unanimously agreed that the Office should be, above all, an exclusively scientific association.

Its functions are to include the classification and description of the products of human thought—to determine the *unités bibliographiques*, so as to facilitate and perfect the uniform and scientific character of international classification. The Institut is to hold an annual session, at which the progress of the previous 12 months will be reviewed, and it will select its members from among persons, institutions, and associations practically engaged in bibliographical or immediately kindred work.

The third session was a short one. On the proposition of M. Otlet, it was decided

that the tables of the decimal classification be translated into German and Italian. Before the congress adjourned M. Deschamps briefly reviewed the chief points which had been ventilated during the session. Following this came an informal inspection of the working rooms of MM. Lafontaine and Otlet and of their 30 collaborators. When it is stated that within a very short period they have practically prepared for the press nearly half a million titles of books and pamphlets, some faint idea of the magnitude of their undertaking may be obtained. It is, as the *London Athenæum* correctly judges, "by far too large for private enterprise, or even for a society; and, indeed, it cannot hope for success without the practical adhesion of the various governments. Given this, its advantages would be manifold to every country in the world."

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN MARYLAND.

AT the 29th convention of the Maryland State Teachers' Association, held at the Blue Mountain House, July 9-12, 1895, Dr. Bernard C. Steiner, librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, presented an interesting paper on "Public schools and public libraries," in which he urged the establishment of public libraries throughout the state and that such a general law be passed by the state as would lend official sanction to such libraries. He said, in part: "The state of Maryland is the original home of the American public library. Two centuries ago, in 1695, the Rev. Thomas Bray, D.D., was appointed commissary of the Anglican Church in Maryland. The Church of England had been recently established in the province, and needed some one, as it was thought, to superintend it. For that position Dr. Bray was selected, and he began at once to procure clergymen to cross the ocean and take charge of the 30 parishes into which the province had been divided. One of the arguments made against leaving England was that those who went to America would have no literature, and would not be able to inform themselves sufficiently in theology and other learning to make them fit to preach the gospel. To do away with this objection, he determined to found a library in each parish, and an especially large one in the capital town. These libraries varied in size from 10 to 314 books. Greater than all these was the finest library of the day in America, the one of 1095 volumes sent to Annapolis as the provincial library. This library was intended to be used not only by the clergy, but also by the gentry of the colony, and books from it circulated throughout the neighboring portions of the province. Occasionally we still come upon books belonging to these old libraries, and several hundred volumes of the old provincial library are still preserved in the library of St. John's College.

"Maryland thus began well. In 1704 she passed the first library law in America, establishing a library commission and a library system, but the matter practically ended there. Over a

century and a half later a law was passed authorizing school district libraries, but it has not been utilized in a majority of the school districts. A school district library is not the ideal public library. The unit is too small. There are 2160 school districts in the state outside of Baltimore. It is absurd to suppose that there can, in addition, be that number of effective public libraries in the state. The amount of money allowed each of such libraries is too small. Very little can be done with \$20 a year, the amount which the average school library obtains under the present law. In the whole state last year less than \$600 was returned as appropriated for that purpose, and 11 counties made no return of having given money for libraries during the year. Not one return of an appropriation for a library in a school for colored children is found. I am far from denying that good has been accomplished by district school libraries, nor do I urge the abolition of the system, for a small and well-selected list of reference-books, to be kept in the school-room, will be of great assistance to teachers, and through such libraries books can well be circulated among the scholars. What I do maintain is that the district school library utterly fails to supply home reading for the people at large, and that if we are to satisfy the desires of the people with good literature to be read in their homes, we must find some other system.

"The question to be solved is that of the state at large. 600,000 people of Maryland live in communities not possessing a public library. This question has been taken up and carefully considered by other states. In all there are over 20 states with library laws, and in these are over 700 public libraries. All these laws have one common characteristic—the people tax themselves for a library if they want one, and each place decides for itself if it wants one or not. What is needed is a library for the people, owned by the people and used by the people. The public library is the natural supplement of the public school.

"In Maryland I believe the election district is a unit worth trying to use as a basis for the public library. It seems to me that there might be success with a law providing that on the petition of a certain number of voters an election district may determine whether it wished to have a public library. In case it voted in the affirmative, it should choose a board of directors for this library, the board to consist of three, six, or nine members, according to the population of the district. To these directors should be paid yearly by the tax collectors a tax amounting to one or two mills on the dollar (the amount, whatever it be, being fixed by the general law), such money to be used by the directors for the maintenance of a public library, free to all inhabitants of the district. The various minor details of administration would have, of course, to be filled in. I believe such a law would do much toward encouraging the formation of libraries in the country districts."

Dr. Steiner's paper was earnestly discussed, and the association appointed a library commis-

sion of seven members to work for the passage of a state law authorizing the establishment of public libraries on the lines suggested by Dr. Steiner.

#### THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA.

VERY important changes are contemplated in the development of the free library system of Philadelphia. The progress of the Free Library has been very satisfactory since its inception in 1891. It was opened originally in March, 1894, in two or three rooms in the city hall, temporarily loaned for the purpose. In February of the present year it was removed to its present comparatively commodious quarters on Chestnut street. On the first day in the city hall, 120 books were distributed and on the first day on Chestnut street the circulation was 1743. Over 6000 volumes a week are now taken out by the public.

On the last day of 1894, under two several ordinances, the city councils created the existing board of trustees for establishing and maintaining the Free Library, and in June of the present year an act of assembly was duly approved authorizing cities of the first class of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to levy a tax and make appropriations for the establishment and maintenance of free libraries.

It is now proposed by an ordinance pending in councils, that hereafter all appropriations for a free library shall be made exclusively to the trustees of the Free Library of Philadelphia or their legal successors, and that the six branch libraries which have been established by the city shall be placed, from the beginning of next year, under the control of the Free Library board. The work of the branches has been admirable, but this movement will tend both toward economy and better service. It is proposed to largely increase the number of branches and by liberal use of the telephone service and small wagons to enable the clients of the branches to have practical and prompt use of the books both of the branch and also of the central library. Complete catalogs will be provided at each branch, and if the proposals of the board are carried out there can be little doubt that Philadelphia will be on the high road to attaining a free library that will well compare in a short time with any other city in the Union.

The Mercantile Library has also made a proposal to place its books at the disposal of councils, to the extent of making that institution a free library, but at the present time its offer is hampered by many serious conditions. Its president says that it cannot amalgamate with the Free Library—that the books can never become the property of the city, nor can its funds be made over to the city.

When the Free Library of Philadelphia was established by the city, it made over to the city all of its books and the income of its large fund, amounting to nearly a quarter of a million dollars, received from the bequest of Mr. George S. Pepper.



### WHAT A FREE LIBRARY DOES FOR A COUNTRY TOWN.

THE following "reasons why" a free library is beneficial to a country town are from the first (1895) "Connecticut public library document." Reprinted in a local paper, village librarians may find these hints a simple and effective library advertisement:

1. It keeps boys at home in the evening by giving them well-written stories of adventure.
2. It gives teachers and pupils interesting books to aid their school work in history and geography, and makes better citizens of them by enlarging their knowledge of their country and its growth.
3. It provides books on the care of children and animals, cookery and housekeeping, building and gardening, and teaches young readers how to make simple dynamos, telephones, and other machines.
4. It helps clubs that are studying history, literature, or life in other countries, and throws light upon Sunday-school lessons.
5. It furnishes books of selections for reading aloud, suggestions for entertainments and home amusements, and hints on correct speech and good manners.
6. It teaches the name and habits of the plants, birds, and insects of the neighborhood, and the difference in soil and rocks.
7. It tells the story of the town from its settlement and keeps a record of all important events in its history.
8. It offers pleasant and wholesome stories to readers of all ages.

### A LIBRARIAN'S EPITAPH.

AMONG the many quaint epitaphs to be seen in the old Charter Street burying-ground of Salem, Mass., is the following tribute to one of the early librarians of Harvard College, which may well cause the librarians of the present day to ponder upon the many virtues common to the profession, even in days when the "library movement" was unborn:

In this Grave are deposited  
The Remains of Nathaniel Ward, AM  
Late Librarian of Harvard College  
Whom

A penetrating Genius  
Improved by an extensive Acquaintance,  
With the liberal Arts and Sciences,  
Rendered Superiour to most,  
His native good Sense,  
And literary Accomplishments  
Attracted univerfal Notice;  
While his amiable disposition  
And social Virtues,

Especially,  
His singular Frankness, and undiffembled Benevolence  
Gained him the Esteem and Love of all.  
He was a dutiful Son, and affectionate Brother,  
A faithful Friend, and agreeable Companion.

A Sincere Piety towards God  
Crowned his other Virtues  
And promised a Life eminently useful,  
But a Blasted Hope  
In the Vigor of Youth,  
Amidst happy Prospects,  
Cut off by a raging Fever  
He breathed forth his Soul,  
October XII in the Year  
MDCCLXIII Aged XXIII

### CONGRESS OF LIBRARIANS AT THE ATLANTA EXPOSITION.

NOVEMBER 29 is this year to be known as Library Day in Georgia, in honor of the Congress of Librarians to be held on that date in the assembly-room of the Woman's Building at the Atlanta Exposition. Miss Anne Wallace, who is chairman of the congress, has arranged for an interesting and instructive program, and the meeting should be most helpful in fostering a library spirit, not only in Georgia, but in the other southern states. Among the librarians who are expected to attend and present papers at the congress are Miss Mary S. Cutler; Miss Mary E. Sargent, of Medford, Mass.; Miss Alice B. Kroeger, of the library department of Drexel Institute; Miss Hannah P. James; Miss Nina E. Browne, of the Library Bureau; Miss Theresa West, and Mrs. Carrie W. Whitney, of the Kansas City Public Library. The attractive library in the Woman's Building will be the headquarters of the visiting librarians.

### Library Association of the United Kingdom.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1895.

THE 18th annual conference of the Library Association of the United Kingdom was held this year in Cardiff, Wales, September 10-12. The first session was held in the Cardiff Free Library, on the morning of Tuesday, September 10, and was presided over by Lord Windsor. About 200 delegates were present from various parts of the kingdom.

The opening address of the chairman dwelt particularly upon the necessity of a wise and careful selection of books. Librarians nowadays had to deal with a perfect avalanche of books, and extreme discrimination was needed. Another difficulty that confronted public libraries was lack of space. The shelf-room at their disposal was limited, and, however well a library was selected, the process of weeding was always necessary. The value of catalogs and books of reference had greatly increased of late years, owing to the prodigious number of books with which they had to deal, and it would be interesting to know how many volumes annually found their way into the store-rooms of the British Museum. Librarians were obliged to consult the tastes of a great variety of readers. As to the class of literature to be read, it was better to read light literature, so long as it was not pernicious, than not to read at all. Romantic fiction had exercised an enormous influence upon national life and character from the earliest times; it was a mirror of the habits and customs of mediæval times, and in reviewing the literature of mediæval days there was ample evidence to prove that romantic fiction formed the staple reading of our forefathers. Surely the law of the survival of the fittest need not condemn us to a population of blue-stockings.



Librarians had a great opportunity for good work in assisting readers in the choice of books. Within the last 50 years a reading public had arisen which could be counted by millions in England alone. It was to be hoped that a great future was opening out before them, and that writers of genius might be found sufficiently strong to take their place among the giants of all ages. Meanwhile librarians must play their part in directing the stream into its proper course so far as was possible, so that no valuable crop should be carried away by the flood of literature, but that its waters might fertilize the land and produce in due time a rich harvest of ripe fruit.

Miss Dorothy Taylor, of Cardiff, then read a paper on "Hospital libraries," in which she urged the claims of three classes of hospital libraries, viz., those for the use of the medical staff and students, for nurses, and lastly, for patients. She had sent circulars to 70 hospitals and infirmaries in London and the provinces, and the statistics showed that only 25 libraries exist for the use of patients, varying in size from 100 to 4000 volumes. The discussion which followed educed the fact that in nearly all large towns surplus papers and magazines are sent by the public libraries to the hospitals, and it was suggested that in order to secure supplies from private houses a systematic collection should be made.

Mr. Barrett, of Glasgow, opened a discussion on "How best to display periodicals." The recent rapid development of periodical literature made this question really of considerable importance. In the Mitchell Library Mr. Barrett is able to exhibit 386 current periodicals, each having a definite place; but it is difficult to persuade readers to return them to their proper places when finished with. The plan adopted at St. Martin-in-the-Fields seemed to meet with general approval. There each periodical is fastened in its place with its name boldly labelled above.

The next paper was read by Samuel Smith, of Sheffield, "On the public librarian: his helps and hindrances." This paper, as it touched on a good many contested points in practical librarianship, evoked a somewhat heated discussion; and among the hindrances to the progress of the librarian Mr. Smith instanced the wretched salaries paid in several important public libraries, where the rule was for well-educated youths of 15 years of age to begin at 6s. per week, with a prospect of attaining to 10s. per week in five years' time.

On Wednesday the association resumed its conference under the presidency of Peter Cowell, chief librarian of the Liverpool Public Libraries. Miss Ellen Verney aroused great interest by her paper entitled "The Middle Claydon (Parish) Public Library: a successful experiment," in which she showed what had been done in a rural parish with a population of only 225, and so small an available penny rate as £9 per annum. The adoption of the free libraries act under such circumstances, she said, evoked a healthy sentiment of public spirit opposed to

the spirit of patronage which generally prevailed when a reading-room was condescendingly founded by some rich individual of the neighborhood. The first requisite was to put the village library on a sound business footing so as to give it the element of permanence, which only the adoption of the act could supply, after which there was ample scope for volunteer effort. It had been shown that there was a real appreciation of good literature among classes that hitherto had lacked opportunity of developing such tastes, and that libraries could be made a success without "penny dreadfuls" and "shilling shockers," even in a small rural parish. The public library under the act of 1892 appealed to the inhabitants as no other library could, and became a power for good to the whole neighborhood. The lending library and reading-room are greatly used, and every Wednesday the room is thronged with the laborers and their wives. The library now contains over 1000 v.

The next paper was read by John Shepherd, of the Cardiff Public Library, and dealt with "The collection and arrangement of topographical prints, drawings, and maps." In the discussion which followed, Mr. Welch, of the Guildhall Library, strongly emphasized the advantage of preserving local prints and drawings on separate mounts and unbound, as this admits of their being easily photographed or divided into special collections for exhibition. Several members spoke, and the result showed that the practice of collecting local prints in public libraries had become very general, and that some libraries contained costly and important collections.

The next paper, on the "Bibliography of Monmouthshire," was by Mr. W. Haines, and in his absence was read by Colonel Bradney.

A paper on "Welsh publishing and book-selling," by Mr. Ellir Evans, of Cardiff, gave rise to a discussion on the use of the Welsh language, in the course of which Sir William Bailey said he thought it was about time the Welsh gave their productions to the English people in the English language. If the works of Buchanan, Burns, and Sir Walter Scott had been printed in Gaelic, they would scarcely have been known beyond the limits of Scotland. Some of the finest poetry in the Church of England hymn-books had been written by Welshmen, but few hymns had been rendered in English compared to the great mass of really beautiful hymns buried in the Welsh language, of which the English people knew nothing. Why should the genius of Wales be cribbed, cabined, and confined by adherence to their own language? It might be patriotism, but it was patriotism in a wrong direction. This speech evoked an energetic protest from Mr. Williams, of the Swansea Free Library, who declared that the English language was too poor in expression to convey the eloquence of the Welsh nature.

Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, of Nottingham, read a paper entitled "How to extend the library movement," which was followed by a practical discussion.

The final session of the conference was held on Thursday, September 12, under the presidency of Lord Windsor. "Workingmen's libraries in Glamorgan and Monmouthshire" was the subject of a paper by Evan Owen, of Cardiff, who emphasized the need of helpful institutions for the benefit of colliers. He pointed out various obstacles to be overcome in meeting the needs of that particular class, such as the migratory habit of the collier. Many colliery libraries were thriving and prosperous. The passing of the free educational and the parish councils acts had been a great incentive to their formation. What was essential to the success of a colliery library was a fair start on a sound and proper basis. Now that Wales had been blessed with intermediate schools and university colleges, a great deal might be expected of her sons and daughters. If a good system of colliery libraries could be established the social edifice of the mining community in "gallant little Wales" would be practically complete. During the discussion of the paper Lord Windsor recommended a scheme of affiliation of such libraries for purposes of mutual co-operation, and Dr. Garnett suggested the utilization of electrical communication between the different districts by telegraph or telephone for local library work.

"The public library and the elementary school—a note on an experiment," was the title of a paper by J. J. Ogle, of Bootle, who described a scheme of affiliation between board schools and the free libraries which had met with encouraging success. In the discussion that followed, Lady Verney urged the desirability of providing works on local topography and history in such libraries so as to interest the children in objects and places within their reach. Such books would be of great value to the members of cycling clubs, which largely consisted of boys, and would serve to give interest to their excursions. John Williams, of Swansea, thought such a plan should be extended to schools other than elementary, and suggested that the scattered libraries in the different technical schools should be concentrated in the public library and made available for general reference. Mr. Cowell followed up this suggestion by relating the experience of the Liverpool Public Library, where they applied the money which had become available under the customs and excise act to the purchase of technical books not only for the reference library but also for their branch libraries, a list of the works so bought being circulated in the work-shops of the city. The result was that in the succeeding 12 months an increase in the circulation of technical books took place to the extent of 12,000 volumes. Such books, however, soon got out of date, and had to be frequently replaced by the latest editions, entailing an expense for which they had to make up their minds.

Miss Petherbridge, of London, read a paper entitled "A cataloging class for Great Britain and Ireland," which led to a somewhat animated discussion, most of the cataloging experts present protesting that such a scheme would re-

sult in deadening uniformity and discouragement of individual work, and would do a great deal more harm than the good which would be gained by having all cataloging done at a central bureau.

After a short excursion by steamer and luncheon in the town hall, the members visited Cardiff Castle, by the invitation of the Marquis of Bute.

At the evening meeting Mr. Boosé, librarian of the Royal Colonial Institute, read a valuable paper upon "The colonies and the registers of colonial publications." To the discussion which followed Mr. Cundall, librarian of the Jamaica Institute, contributed a note upon library work now being done in Jamaica. This was followed by a paper on "Free libraries and the local press," by Mr. Joseph Gilbert, of Day's Library.

Mr. MacAlister, the honorary secretary of the association, then read a paper on "The future of the library association: a forecast," which, he stated, was practically an introduction to the resolution which stood in his name, recommending that the association take steps to become incorporated. He briefly sketched the amount and kind of work that might be done by the association if it were strongly established and endowed, and urged the great importance of securing a continuity of effort which should be independent of the fluctuations of an income derived merely from annual subscriptions. He believed that the wealthy friends of the movement would be quite willing to endow the association; but it must first prepare itself by incorporation to hold property and otherwise to develop its resources, and results of incorporation.

The report of the council, with the treasurer's audited accounts, having been adopted, Mr. MacAlister moved:

"That this meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom believes that the time has come when it will be for the permanent advantage of the association that it should be incorporated, and that its objects will be greatly furthered and helped by the improved status which incorporation confers; that it approves and indorses the decision of the council in the matter of petitioning for a royal charter of incorporation, and instructs and empowers the council to take all necessary steps to bring the matter to a successful conclusion."

After considerable discussion, this resolution was put to the vote and carried unanimously. Mr. MacAlister then moved his second resolution:

"That the council be, and is hereby, instructed to revise the constitution, with a view to the requirements of an incorporated society; and that the revised constitution be submitted for confirmation to a special general meeting to be held in London in November next."

Mr. Welch, of the Guildhall Library, moved as an amendment that the matter be deferred to the next annual meeting; but this amendment being lost, the original resolution was put to the meeting and carried by a large majority.

Mr. James Yates, librarian of the Leeds Public Library, in the name of his committee, invited the association to hold its next annual meeting at Leeds, an invitation which was unanimously accepted. This brought to a close the formal business of the meeting.

## State Library Associations.

### MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

THE Massachusetts Library Club held its annual meeting on October 2, 1895, at Malden, by invitation of the trustees of the Public Library. The First Baptist Society having kindly placed their chapel and social-room at the service of the club, the meeting was called to order in the chapel at 10:15 a.m. The forenoon session was devoted to a discussion of children's reading, and the afternoon session to a consideration of some of the philanthropic aspects of library work.

Mr. D. P. Corey, president of the board of trustees, made a brief address of welcome.

President Foster in opening the meeting referred to the impressiveness and significance of architecture, and said that few communities possessed so impressive a monument as the Converse Memorial Building, in which the Malden Library is housed. A paper on "Some successful methods of developing children's interest in good literature," describing the work done by Mr. James M. Sawin, principal of the Point St. Grammar School, at Providence, R. I., was then read by Mr. Foster. It was hoped that Mr. Sawin would have presented the paper in person, but he was unfortunately prevented, by illness, from attending.

Mr. Sawin's experience represents 27 years' work in one school. His plan comprised a careful study of the public library, a selection therefrom of school literature, and, thirdly, the careful study of the works selected, striving to fit the books to individual pupils. The pupil keeps the book a certain time, and then gives an account of the substance of it. What it is intended to induce is not so much knowledge of a book as the habit and right way of reading a book. At first stress was laid on oral work, but this has now given way to written summaries. The attempt is to lead children from paraphrases of great writers and extracts to the complete original. The case was mentioned of one boy who was turned from detective stories and now has a private library of 600 volumes.

Mr. Foster said that a librarian could cultivate knowledge of the interests of the various teachers and send them clippings to use in stimulating classes—acts of heroism, current events, and incidents appropriate to young people. Over 20,000 of Mr. Sawin's lists of selected books have been distributed.

Mr. Horace E. Scudder said he was glad Mr. Sawin brought to the front the personal element. Nothing is so sure of results as contact with the individual. The recognition of the library idea as an adjunct of school life is one of the most hopeful signs of the times. The idea of the enrichment of human life through good literature is a great fact of the last few years. A boy was given toy tools for working in his garden, because he was interested in horticulture, but the boy preferred his father's old hoe and rake. The amount of great literature suitable for all ages is enormous. In 1867 Mr. Scudder was asked to edit a magazine for young people.

For four years he introduced old ballads, history, etc., and had the gratitude of parents and the appreciation of the children. We should not depend largely on literature written for children. The one-syllable folly came soon to an end. Stories from ancient authors are of doubtful value. Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare" form perhaps a good introduction to the drama, which is difficult of approach for children. But it is not good to read an abstract or digest of Scott. A work of art should not be whittled down. If children are to be taught the old Greek stories let them read Palmer's translation of the "Odyssey." Give them the best there is. They may not understand all, but there will be bright spots they will never forget. The accidental things like chronology and the lives of the authors are not of great value. The essential thing is the living spirit of literature. A little fellow who learned to love the "Odyssey" in Palmer's translation, heard it spoken of as Palmer's "Odyssey." When his parents were to entertain Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, the boy was much interested, and asked if Mr. Palmer was married before or after Christ. The fact that he did not comprehend that Mr. Palmer was the translator, not the author, of the poem, did not in the least interfere with his appreciation of the work.

Mrs. Harry E. Converse then sang a solo.

Miss A. L. Sargent, treasurer, presented her report, which showed a balance on hand of \$278.66.

Mr. Lane called attention to the recent action of the A. L. A. Publishing Section in placing the membership fee at \$5. Members receive all publications charged against their subscriptions at 20 per cent. discount, and may order additional copies at the same discount. The "List of subject headings" is now ready, and the "List of books for girls and women and their clubs" is in process of publication. An "Index to portraits" is promised for the future.

The meeting then adjourned until 2 p.m., and the members sat down to a most bountiful repast.

Mr. C. W. Birtwell, secretary of the Boston Children's Aid Society, opened the afternoon session with a paper on "Books enough and to spare." He urged that the securing of books from public libraries should be made easier and more attractive. He looked forward to the day when there would be a free delivery of books. If the newspapers could scrape the world for news and get it to us, often before it happens, for two cents, he could not see why the public library could not have free delivery, or even send a cart-load of books and say to the busy, tired woman, who has no time to go to the library, "Here, my poor woman, come out and see what I have got."

Mr. R. E. Ely, president of the Prospect Union in Cambridge, said that among the working people were found two classes, one feeding on husks, and one not feeding at all. We must try to get at them through personal sympathy. Take them through libraries. They tell others. In the Prospect Union is an iron-moulder, over 60

years old, an agnostic and philosophical anarchist. He heard a lecture on Wordsworth, and next day saw a book of poetry; he read something that expressed his thought. So he is a great reader of poetry now, and Shelley is his idol. Every library should have a person with tact and kindness to give his time to help the public. Put bulletin boards about the town, and post lists of books in the churches and the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Woods, of Andover House, in Boston, said: "You must not only offer good influence, but go out and compel people to come in. The place where the books are should be attractive, and a social element should be cultivated. Settlements might become distributing centres for public libraries. Mr. Barnes, of Leland Stanford, Jr., University, has made a study of children's ideas of religion, of beauty, and of form. This study is necessary if books are to be carried wisely to these people. The library should circulate pictures."

Miss N. E. Browne, of Denison House, said that arrangements had been made with the Boston Public Library to have a station at the House. The library furnishes an attendant, and Denison House gives the room. About 250 books have been placed there, and more are promised if a constituency is secured. It is found that the people want *short books*.

Mrs. A. R. Marsh, of Cambridge, described the work of the Book Club, that branch of the Cheerful Letter Exchange. Each member has the care of 20 correspondents, to whom letters are written and books sent monthly. During the past year 1171 books (exclusive of magazines) were distributed thus to people who are too poor to buy, and unable, for one or another reason, to draw books from public libraries. Many of the correspondents are mothers in places where there are poor schools or none. Some correspondents circulate books among their neighbors, or to ships in port, or among colored people, etc. Lists of books asked for by correspondents are printed in the monthly paper of the society, *The Cheerful Letter*, which is issued under the care of Miss L. Freeman Clarke, Jamaica Plain. Mr. Lane asked that librarians co-operate with the Cheerful Letter Exchange by sending them duplicates not needed.

Mr. Jones, chairman of the committee on lists of select fiction, presented a report of progress, accompanied with samples of blanks used and proof of list No. 1. As the estimated cost of the list is large when compared with the income of the club, the question of continuing the work was, according to the wish of the committee, referred to the executive committee with full power.

Mr. Whitney, of Watertown, in presenting resolutions of thanks to the trustees and librarians of the Malden Public Library, to the First Baptist Society, to Mr. Foster, the retiring president of the club, and to all who contributed papers or remarks to the meeting, said: "It is particularly fitting that this Rhode Island meeting should be held in a city where a Williams is chief librarian, and under the protection of a Baptist church. Massachusetts was unjust and

most unwise in the earlier days of its history, before the liberalizing influences of public libraries were so apparent on every hand, in expelling one from its borders for religious differences of opinion, but we are glad to see that Rhode Island does not cherish unkind thoughts toward us, as is shown by her contributions to this present meeting, and may we always, as to-day, forget that Rhode Island is not a part of our old commonwealth."

Resolutions were adopted instructing the executive committee, if practicable, to arrange during the winter for a meeting of the club to which library associations in other New England states should be invited to send delegates, and all persons in other New England states active or interested in library work invited to attend.

A proposition having been made looking to the creation of a class of corresponding members, not resident in this state, it was referred to the executive committee to report an amendment to the constitution at the next meeting.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, C. K. Bolton, librarian of the Brookline Public Library; Vice-presidents, F. H. Hedge, librarian Lawrence Public Library, Miss L. A. Williams, librarian Malden Public Library; Secretary, Wm. H. Tillinghast, assistant librarian Harvard College Library; Treasurer, Miss A. L. Sargent, Public Library, Medford.

The secretary not being present, Mr. Bolton acted as secretary *pro tem.* during the meeting. WM. H. TILLINGHAST, Secretary.

#### CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE fall meeting of the Connecticut Library Association was held October 2, in the David M. Hunt Library, Falls Village. The building, erected by the Misses Hunt in memory of their brother, is a tasteful and substantial one of brick, which cost \$10,000, and has rooms for the high school on the lower floor. The meeting was in the afternoon and evening, in order to insure a full attendance, and many visitors from neighboring towns took advantage of the fine weather and full moon. Guests were met at the noon train by a committee of ladies, and taken to homes in the village, where they were entertained at dinner and for the night, a bountiful and daintily served repast being spread in the vestry of the Congregational church at tea-time. The pretty little library was beautifully decorated with ferns and potted plants, and filled to overflowing both afternoon and evening with an intelligent and appreciative audience. Twenty-two different towns were represented, and nearly 100 delegates registered.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 by the president, W. K. Stetson. Rev. C. W. Hanna, of the Congregational church, welcomed the association in a hearty manner to the "promised land."

After the president's response, and the usual reports of secretary and treasurer, an interesting paper was read by Miss Cate E. Herrick, of the New Haven Public Library, on "Open shelves



at New Haven." Since July of the present year the experiment of permitting free access to the shelves has been tried, with very satisfactory results. Readers have found out that there are many classes of books in the library besides novels, and are using them with pleasure and profit. A children's room has been opened in one of the galleries, and children are free to choose all their own books from the shelves. Books are of course misplaced, and one assistant spends two hours every day putting them in order, but the advantages of the plan outweigh the disadvantages.

Miss Annie B. Jackson, of North Adams, Mass., told of methods employed in the public library of that town in the "Circulation of children's books." In 1883 there were only 75 or 80 books for children in the library, and there had to be "boys' days" and "girls' days." Since then the children's department has grown and is carefully classified, and the proportion of history, biography, travel, and science called for is much larger than in most libraries.

Miss Louise M. Carrington, of the Beardsley Library, West Winsted, opened a discussion on replacing worn-out books. The general opinion of the meeting was that good and valuable books should be replaced, but that money may be better spent for new books than for new copies of many gone-by novels, or of obsolete books of information. The poor paper and binding of some modern books were condemned, Arthur W. Tyler, of the new \$300,000 Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford, speaking of the 17th century as "the time when they printed for the glory of God, and not to make money."

In the evening the ladies of Falls Village entertained the whole audience at supper in the chapel opposite the library. At the evening session Mrs. Donald T. Warner, of Salisbury, read an historical sketch of the Scoville Memorial Library in that town, quoting some of the rules for the Smith Library given by a generous resident about 1775: "If any person shall be uneasy about a book, he shall have it for one copper." The fines for misuse of books are on record: "Leaves doubled down, 2 pence; book nastied with coloring stuff, 1 shilling; drop of tallow, 1 shilling." This collection and the later Bingham Library were the beginning of the collection now housed, through the generosity of the Scoville family, in a fine stone building of Norman architecture, with a clock-tower, chime, auditorium, and Steinway grand piano.

The Rev. John De Peu, of Norfolk, made a scholarly and thoughtful address, taking for his subject Tennyson's "Merlin and the gleam," tracing in it the development of Tennyson's mind, speaking of him as the poet of the grandeur and sublimity of human life, and of his confident assurance, hope, and faith in God, and saying that he never wrote a line that would disgrace the rectory where he was born. The address was a suggestion to the librarians of means of interesting readers in a more careful study of Tennyson.

Mr. Harden, from the New York office of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., spoke of paper and

binding, and the advantage of glue prepared with rubber for making the backs of books flexible.

Miss C. M. Hewins's account of the meetings of the A. L. A. Conference at Denver and Miss Josephine S. Heydricks's description of the pleasures of the post-conference trip were so graphically portrayed that the entire company almost felt that they too had been to Colorado and the cañons of the Rockies. With a unanimous vote of thanks to their kind entertainers, the association adjourned to meet February 22, 1896, in the Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury.

THE association has recently issued its "Handbook" for 1895, containing a list of the officers for 1894-95, a list of the officers since the foundation of the association, the constitution, a summary of the meetings, discussions and addresses held since the preliminary meeting in February, 1891, and a list of the members, who now number 82.

#### THE PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY CLUB.

THE formal sessions of the club do not commence till November, but a pleasant preliminary excursion was had on September 5th. Forty-one of the members met together at Darby, where they were received by Mr. Robert P. Bliss, librarian of the Bucknell Theological Library, and Miss Burnap, of the Chester Free Library, from whence they went in a chartered car to Marcus Hook.

About four o'clock in the afternoon they inspected the Chester Free Library, and a short meeting was held under the presidency of Mr. John Thomson, librarian of the Free Library of Philadelphia, when there was a brief discussion on the subject, "How can you best promote the best use of books in a public library?" The discussion was opened by Mr. Thomson, and remarks were made by Miss Kroeger, Miss Burnap, Miss Middleton, Mr. Bliss, and one of the committee of the Chester Free Library.

They next visited the Bucknell Library, where Mr. Bliss and some of the trustees did the honors. The literary curiosities were examined and a very enjoyable time was given to the visitors.

After dining together in Chester the party returned to Philadelphia, and are looking forward to their next meeting, toward the end of October, when they are to be received by Mr. W. J. Latta at his residence on Wissahickon Heights, who promised to afford them an inspection of his very fine collection of Napoleoniciana.

#### MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE fifth annual conference of the Michigan Library Association was held in Kalamazoo, September 24-25. As the president, Mr. Utley, was unavoidably absent, the first vice-president, Miss G. M. Walton, librarian at the Normal School, Ypsilanti, presided at the meetings. The first session was called to order at 3 p.m., and after a few introductory remarks by the vice-president the president's address was read by the secretary. The subject of the paper



was "Helpfulness to library readers." It said that the earlier meetings of the A. L. A. and of the state associations had naturally been largely devoted to questions of interior design and management of libraries, to technical details of interest to library workers, but that this year the aim in the A. L. A. meetings had been to bring out that aspect of library work which pertains to the great educational influence which libraries should exert, and the attitude of library workers toward readers who come to the library and toward the community in which it is situated. Librarians should meet people with tact, in a spirit of cordial helpfulness. A brief review was given of the papers in this line of thought written for the Denver meeting by Prof. Little and Miss Cutler.

Miss Sarah A. Cochrane, of the Detroit Public Library, read an interesting paper on "The card catalog." The advantages of this form of catalog were stated, and the most approved methods of managing it were clearly and concisely summarized.

The subject of "Local bibliography and the indexing of local newspapers" was enthusiastically treated by Mr. B. A. Finney, of the University Library, Ann Arbor. He said that newspapers contain material for local history that is not put into print in any other way, and unless they are bound and cared for much valuable information will be irredeemably lost. A brief interesting review of early newspapers in the state was given, the first being started in Detroit in 1809. The names of papers of which complete files can be found in the state were mentioned. The list was a short one. The importance of having local papers preserved in the libraries as the most suitable place was urged, and it was stated that editors are, as a rule, very willing to contribute copies of their papers for this purpose. Inquiry showed that of the libraries represented at the meeting four were binding files of papers. In regard to indexing items of local interest, Mr. Finney thought that the work could be done with comparative ease, in a minimum of time, while the librarian was reading the paper. Selecting only items of local interest and indexing usually under only one heading, the work would not consume more than an hour for each issue of a paper, and the index would be of increasing value as years pass.

At the evening session a very pleasant address of welcome was given by Dr. Slocum, of Kalamazoo. Mr. L. B. Gilmore, of the Detroit Public Library, read a paper on "Classifying and numbering United States public documents." He said that attempting to make a proper disposition of these documents is troublesome and sometimes exasperating. Still it is a matter of great importance, and the work should be done in a spirit of interest and patience. In the libraries of Michigan, designated as depositories, there are 37,000 volumes of public documents, and it is believed that in a set of them there is as much valuable information as in any equal number of other publications, yet they are often consigned by librarians to the attic or the basement, instead of being so arranged and cataloged as to be of ser-

vice to the public. In the Detroit Public Library it is the custom to place them on the shelves by congress and session. Their system of numbering was explained by means of a chart. The importance of having them well cataloged was emphasized. Mr. Gilmore is of opinion that the work of cataloging them begun at Washington will not relieve the libraries of that work, as a catalog on the plan of Mr. Ames's comprehensive index would be too cumbersome, being weighted with a large amount of material never needed.

A pleasing address on "The public library from the citizen's point of view" was given by Prof. Hartwell, of the Kalamazoo schools. The citizen's point of view, he said, is one of great cordiality. There are none who are not proud of the progress of knowledge which is largely due to libraries, all are proud of the public library as an American institution, and of Michigan for her standing in regard to the growth of her public libraries. The citizen's point of view is one of great importance to librarians, who, like other experts, must avoid the danger of being so engrossed with the details of management as to forget the true end for which they labor—the intellectual interests of the general public. The librarian's true specialty is to make the influence of the library strong and far-reaching. The ideal value of the library should be prominent in the minds of its officers. As there are books which are simply mines of information, so there are others which embody the thought and imagination which are our heritage from all ages. "One class must die, the other lives and is literature. 'The garnerers of Sicily,' says Lowell, 'are empty now, but bees of all climes still fetch honey from the tiny garden plot of Theocritus.' To point out to eager searchers the garden plots whence the essence of intellectual life has been distilled is the highest opportunity of the library. It may thus give the transmuting touch which changes dead learning to vitalized and efficient character."

A pleasing incident was a brief informal address by Mrs. Kent, who was librarian in Kalamazoo 23 years ago. She spoke of the progress of the Kalamazoo library, and said that one of the pleasant experiences of her life had been having people tell her of the help that she had been able to give them while in the library.

The closing session Wednesday morning was devoted to reports, election of officers, and miscellaneous business. The secretary reported the addition of seven new members during the year, the total membership being 40. There are 38 public libraries in the state, containing an average of 179 v. for each 1000 population. The proceedings of the previous (1894) meeting, held at Ann Arbor, were published in the report of the State Superintendent of Instruction. The treasurer reported a balance of \$39.63.

The subject of place of next meeting was then brought up, and after a good deal of discussion as to the propriety of holding a Michigan meeting in Ohio, it was voted to have the

next annual meeting in Cleveland at the time of the A. L. A. meeting.

The following resolutions were passed:

"Resolved, That it is the sentiment of this meeting that each library in the state should preserve at least one local newspaper as local bibliography and history, and index it if possible.

"Resolved, That the executive committee communicate with the Press Association with a view to making arrangements for an appropriate celebration of St. John's Day, June 24, 1897, the 500th anniversary of the birth of Gutenberg."

The conference was a thoroughly enjoyable one. The beautiful library building, the gift of Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Van Deusen, was much admired. Dr. and Mrs. Van Deusen attended the meetings, and with the many other friends of the library not only gave their time and thoughtful attention to the papers and proceedings, but opened their homes to entertain all the members with a gracious hospitality that was gratefully received and highly appreciated.

The officers for the year are: President, H. M. Utley; Vice-presidents, Miss G. M. Walton and Miss I. C. Roberts; Secretary, Mrs. A. F. Parsons; Treasurer, Miss Lucy Ball.

ANNIE F. PARSONS, *Secretary*.

#### LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA.

THE regular meeting of the Library Association of Central California was held at the Mechanics' Institute, on Friday, September 13, 1895.

President Rowell presided, and in an introductory address called attention to the death of Mr. C. C. Terrill, a trustee of the Free Public Library, and appointed Messrs. Cleary and Clark a committee to prepare suitable resolutions of respect.

He then introduced Miss Kumli, librarian of the Santa Rosa Public Library, who gave a thoughtful paper on the topic of the evening, "State aid to libraries." She dwelt particularly on the necessity of amending the state library law, pointing out some of the conflicting clauses, and suggesting improvements, from the standpoint of the library.

Mr. Harbourn followed in a paper covering the same general ground.

Mr. Layman, Mr. Clark, Mr. Cleary, and Mr. Dupuy made short addresses, and considerable discussion followed on the following branches of the subject: "Should the state make grants of money to public libraries?" "Should the state organize a system of travelling libraries?" "Should California have a library commission?" "Relation of the state and the state university libraries to public libraries," "Is any new legislation advisable?"

The chairman appointed a committee of five to formulate the views of the evening into a draft of a law to be submitted by them to the Code Commission now in session, for incorporation in the state codes.

The president announced that the topic for the October meeting would be "Library specialization and co-operation."

A. M. JELLISON, *Secretary*.

#### New York State Library School.

##### LIST OF STUDENTS, 1895-96.

THE fall term opened Wednesday, October 2, with the following students:

##### SENIOR CLASS.

Avery, Myrtila, Katonah, N. Y. B.A. Wellesley college, 1891.  
Betteridge, Grace Lillian, Brockport, N. Y. Wellesley college, 1887-89.  
Biscoe, Ellen Dodge, Albany, N. Y. Wellesley college, 1885-88.  
Bullock, Waller Irene, Baltimore, Md. Wellesley college, 1892-94.  
Corwin, Euphemia Kipp, Greendale, N. Y.  
Crawford, Esther, Missouri Valley, Iowa. B.L. Iowa Agricultural college, 1887.  
Curtis, Florence Rising, Ogdensburg, N. Y. Wells college, 1891-94.  
Olcott, Frances Jenkins, Nassau, N. Y.  
Pond, Nannie May, Woonsocket, R. I. B.S. Wellesley college, 1893.

##### JUNIOR CLASS.

Abbot, Etheldred, Utica, N. Y. B.A. Vassar college, 1895.  
Ames, Anne Seymour, Washington, D. C.  
Andrews, Elisabeth Parkhill, Wethersfield, Ct.  
Atkinson, Jane, Hollicong, Pa. B.A. Swarthmore college, 1893.  
Fellows, Jennie Dorcas, Norwich, Ct.  
Flagg, Charles Allcott, Sandwich, Mass. B.A. Bowdoin college, 1894.  
Frisbee, Edward Selah, Albany, N. Y. B.A. Amherst college, 1860; M.A. 1866; D.D. 1878.  
Hopkins, Julia Anna, Palmyra, N. Y.  
Hes, Constance Hurford, Providence, R. I. B.L. Smith college, 1895.  
Kueffner, Cecilia Wanda, Cambridge, Mass. University of Michigan, 1892-93; Radcliffe college, 1893-94.  
Langworthy, Louise, Alfred, N. Y. Ph.B. Alfred University, 1895.  
Lord, Isabel Ely, Essex, Ct.  
McNair, Mary Wilson, Oneida, N. Y. B.A. Elmira college, 1895.  
Morse, Anna Louise, Millbury, Mass. B.A. Smith college, 1892.  
Newman, Alice, Pittsfield, Mass. B.S. Wellesley college, 1893.  
Pierson, Harriet Wheeler, Florida, N. Y. Mt. Holyoke college, 1892-94.  
Smith, Bessie Sargeant, Wellesley, Mass. B.A. Wellesley college, 1895.  
Terwilliger, Mary Sayers, Alfred, N. Y. Ph.B. Alfred university, 1890; Ph.M. 1892.  
Thompson, Madeleine Sylvester, Passaic, N. J. B.S. Cornell university, 1882.  
Thorne, Elisabeth Gertrude, Skaneateles, N. Y. B.A. Vassar college, 1895.  
Waterman, Lucy Dwight, Gorham, Me.  
Willard, Julia Etta, Watertown, N. Y. B.L. Cornell university, 1885.

MARY S. CUTLER.

## Library Economy and History.

## LOCAL.

*Alleghany, Pa. Carnegie F. L.* (5th rpt.) Added 3784; total 27,201. Issued, home use 125,442 (fict. 66.95%; juv. 21.30%); ref. use 55,935; reading-room use of periodicals 159,791. New card-holders 2210; total registration 11,914. Receipts \$15,000; expenses \$14,875.16 (spent for books \$5976.13).

Mr. Stevenson says: "To say that the librarian's most important and difficult task is the selection of books is but to utter a commonplace. But after the selection of the book as literature is made, then comes the difficulty of selecting or procuring the books as a commercial commodity. This part of a librarian's work is growing more difficult every year, on account of the increasing use of wood-pulp paper by book publishers. It is no exaggeration to say that not a single American publishing house in this country makes uniformly good books. Even the old conservative houses that the librarians always depended on seem to be succumbing to the mercenary spirit that prompts the putting on the public of books that are not worthy of the name. Publishers say that the competition drives them to this. The only thing left for librarians to do is to omit all wood-pulp paper books from their lists, and that is what many are now doing. Most of such books have now disappeared from this library and are not likely to be replaced. As a general rule the wood-pulp paper book is no better as literature than it is as paper, fortunately enough. But this is not always the case. There are many standard English publications that cannot be found in any decent American edition. Of the 3000 volumes added the last year the larger number were books made in England, and with but few exceptions they are books that any library may be proud of."

*Battle Creek (Mich.) P. S. L.* Added 1104; total 13,139. Issued 42,772. No. card-holders 3689.

*Bridgeport (Ct.) P. L.* The second annual photographic exhibit in the art department of the library opened on Sept. 26, to continue until Nov. 2. Every Thursday evening, at eight, during the exhibition, there is a stereopticon exhibition of photographic lantern slides, explained by Frederick C. Beach, of the *American Amateur Photographer*.

*Brookline (Mass.) P. L.* It is planned to establish a music library as a department of the library. It will be arranged in a separate room, with reading-table and writing materials, and will comprise the various books on music contained in the library, in all about 400 v. The collection will include music as well as books on the subject, and Mr. Bolton hopes to induce music publishers to contribute to the collection. The songs and ballads peculiar to each country have been separated into groups, as have also the operatic works of the great composers. The

collection has been increased by recent gifts of books and music by persons interested in the work, and by publishers.

*Chicago, Building Trades L.* The Building Trades library, intended for the free use of workmen, which was opened in Chicago in 1892, has been discontinued after an unsuccessful existence. It was started by subscription among members of the trades unions and was a circulating library, free to all union members or persons recommended by members. Of the 4000 v. on the shelves at the beginning but 2000 remain. The project never won the interest expected, probably owing to the several great and accessible free libraries of the city.

*Chicago, Newberry L.* The third annual report of the trustees describes briefly the removal of the library to its new building. At that time the library contained 123,516 v. and 30,556 pamphlets, and the readers for the year (1894) were 58,618, of whom 45,850 were men.

*Cleveland (O.) P. L.* The school board on Oct. 1 decided to sell the public library building, allowing the board of education to continue their use of it until Oct. 1, 1897. This gives the library 18 months in which to prepare for removal and settle on new quarters. It is hoped that the action may result in the erection of a new library building, which is much needed.

*Denver (Col.) City L.* The two-book system was adopted at the library early in September. Two cards are used in charging the books.

*Des Moines (Ia.) P. L.* It has been decided to remove the library to temporary quarters until the new building to be erected by the city is completed. The overcrowded and uncomfortable condition of the present rooms makes the change necessary. The new quarters comprise the lower floor of the Rogg building, corner of Eighth and Locust streets, and afford about three times as much room as is now available.

*Erie, Pa.* On September 10 the corner-stone of a public library building was laid, with appropriate ceremonies.

*Everett, Mass. Parlin L.* The new Frederick E. Parlin Memorial Library was formally dedicated on September 17, the exercises being held in the local Y. M. C. A. hall. The attractive building, which cost \$21,972, was opened to the public on the following day.

*Fall River (Mass.) P. L.* On September 13 the trustees accepted the plans for the new library building submitted in competition by Cram, Wentworth & Goodhue, of Boston. There were 18 architects in the competition. The selected drawings were placed on exhibition the following day. The design adopted, based on the best available models, shows an effect of solidity in appearance and construction. It presents the typical Roman palace, with its central cortile—in this instance covered with glass, and used as a delivery-room. A vestibule, surmounted by a lofty dome, gives access to the librarian's, trustees', and central delivery-rooms. These three rooms occupy an area of 2250 square feet. The

main court extends to the full height of the building, with an arcade of marble columns entirely surrounding it on the second floor. The general delivery-room communicates, through fire-proof doors, with the stack-room, with an area of 2600 square feet, and also into a cataloging-room, with an area of 550 square feet. An historical or art collection room is on the principal floor. A reference-room of 800 square feet is arranged for, between the art and the reading rooms. A side entrance has been provided for which leads direct to the periodical and children's rooms, and also to the rooms of the school committee in the second story. From the floor level on Elm street is the principal basement entrance. A toilet-room, a large work-room and boiler-room, all taking in about 300 square feet, are in this part of the building. Arranged around the central hall, on the second floor, are the quarters for the school committee. A general office, board-room, a sub-committee-room, and superintendent's office are reached from the gallery about the central court. The structure is of the Italian renaissance style, and stands 56 feet high on the Main street elevation. The library will occupy a most commanding site, and its architecture is commensurate with its surroundings. Including the basement, the building will be of three stories. Over the front entrance the national, state, and city seals will be cut. The building will be 130 feet on Main street and 80 feet on Elm. The stack-room extends from the basement to the roof, and has a capacity for 400,000 v. By legislative enactment a loan of \$150,000 was secured, but at least \$100,000 more will be necessary to complete the ideas suggested by the plans. Mrs. Sara S. Brayton parted with the site, worth \$125,000, for \$50,000, and this leaves but \$100,000 to complete the construction of the building and put it in shape for use. Limestone or sandstone will probably be used in the construction.

*Independence (Ia.) F. L.* Added 10; total 3731; issued 14,483; borrowers 209. Receipts \$2586.62; expenses \$1719.68.

The report covers the period from March 1, 1894, to June 30, 1895.

"The library in June, 1895, was removed into the new library building erected in pursuance of the conditions of the will of the late Perry Munson, in which he made the munificent donation of \$15,000 for that purpose, the lots on which the same is erected having been donated by Jed Lake. It is now located in fine, commodious quarters, free of rent."

*Johns Hopkins Univ. L., Baltimore.* The fine Semitic library of the late Prof. Dillman, of the University of Berlin, has been obtained by Johns Hopkins University, through the generosity of a friend, who desires to remain anonymous. The purchase of the library, for 20,000 marks, was made by Prof. Paul Haupt, of the oriental department of the university, who returned from Europe on October 1, bringing the collection with him. The Dillman library, which contains about 5000 v., is especially rich in works upon the biblical languages, and is also very

full in the department of Ethiopic language and literature. It will be placed in the room of the Oriental Seminary, and will be known as the "Dillman collection."

*Lincoln (Neb.) P. L.* Added 752; total 10,995; lost and paid for 24; lost 4. Issued, home use 81,155 (fict. 80 %); ref. use 12,807. New card-holders 1175; total registration 4900. There are 178 magazines and periodicals on file in the reading-room.

The use of the reference-room, which is large and well lighted, increases constantly. All the bound volumes of magazines, Poole's index, and many reference-books have recently been placed in the reference room for free access, but in spite of this large addition to the unrecorded use of books, there has been an increase of 2466 over the previous year in the books issued for reference use. There has been a slight decrease in home circulation since the removal of the library, but this is probably only temporary. Miss Dennis suggests that the issue of two books on a card be tried.

*Michigan State L., Lansing.* Mrs. Spencer, the state librarian, has issued a general request that the various literary clubs, reading circles, etc., in the state send to her a copy of their season's program or outline of work. The law passed last winter authorizes the state librarian to assist and aid such societies as far as practicable, and Mrs. Spencer is anxious to make this work a helpful and useful feature of the state library.

*Milwaukee (Wis.) P. L.* The bids for the new library-museum building were opened on September 28 and were found to be so low as to insure the construction of the building according to the accepted plans of architects Ferry & Clas. This was a pleasant surprise to the library authorities, who had feared that the estimates would largely exceed the \$500,000 appropriation. The bids range from \$400,000 to \$500,000. Contracts have not yet been awarded.

*Minneapolis (Minn.) P. L.* The library has arranged an interesting exhibition of Bibles, prayer-books, and curios, the property of Rev. John Wright, the author of "Early Bibles of America." These, with a rare collection of Indian Bibles, the property of the public library, and a prayer-book of the fine limited edition, published by the last convention, are placed in the directors' room under a custodian. In the collection is Melancthon's Bible, with notes in his own handwriting, and a prayer-book that belonged to Shelley, with a letter of the poet's.

*Montclair (N. J.) F. P. L.* (2d rept.) Added 1723; total 4173; issued 23,280 (fict. 13,276; juv. 6242). No. borrowers 1532. Receipts \$5081.82; expenses \$4146.39.

The trustees urge the necessity of a suitable and well-arranged reading-room. A general finding-list of all the books in the library has been prepared.

*New Haven (Ct.) P. L.* The children's department of the library was opened in the first



week of September, and has proved very popular. It is located in the gallery, extending nearly two-thirds the length of the building, and contains about 1200 v. One long reading-table is devoted to magazines and periodicals. The department is entirely distinct from the library proper, a separate list of card-holders being kept. There is no age limit.

*Newark (N. J.) P. L.* The library trustees, who recently returned from a tour of inspection among Eastern libraries, have decided to make a second trip to visit the chief libraries of the West. These tours of inspection are intended to furnish hints and suggestions for the new library building which it is planned to erect in Newark.

*Newton Centre, Mass. Newton Theol. Institution.* The new Hills Library of the Newton Theological Institution was formally dedicated on September 27, in the presence of a large audience. The building stands on the crown of Institution Hill, and is a handsome two-story structure in the Greek type of architecture, built of light brick, with freestone trimmings. The exterior is quite plain. In front there is an Ionic portico, flanked by two courts and windows separated by pilasters. In the basement is the stack-room, a reading-room, printing plant, three study-rooms, toilet apartments, and fire-proof room containing the heating apparatus. The main reading-room is located on the first floor, and is to be known as the Hartshorn memorial-room. Its dimensions are 40 x 58 feet. It is named in honor of one of the principal donors to the library fund. The entrance vestibules are on this floor, also the librarian's room, offices, and another stack-room. The rooms of the Backus Historical Society are located on the second floor; also the Backus library-room, toilet-rooms, and study apartments. The library has at present a capacity of 50,000 v., with opportunities for an increase of 25,000 v.

*North Attleboro', Mass. Richards Memorial L.* The memorial library building, presented to North Attleboro' by the children of Mr. and Mrs. E. I. Richards as a memorial to them, was dedicated on the afternoon of Sept. 16. The new building is a substantial one of brick and stone, costing about \$60,000, finely fitted up inside, and allowing for the expansion of the library for years to come. The exercises were held on the lawn adjoining the library grounds. Previous to that time about 1000 school-children assembled and marched to the library, escorted by the Boys' brigade company of the Baptist church and a band. Until within a few hundred yards of the building the band played, but then the children struck up the well-known words of "Onward, Christian soldiers," to the music of which they proceeded to the grounds. There the building was formally presented to the town by Rev. George E. Osgood, and received by the chairman of the board of selectmen, John Q. Hennigan. Then came an oration by Hon. John D. Long. The exercises closed with the singing of "America" by the whole assemblage, led by the band. Later the books owned

by the town, over 4000 volumes, were removed from the present leased quarters to the new building, which was then opened to the public.

*Oakland (Cal.) F. L.* (17th rpt.) Added 3122; total 28,102. Issued, home use 118,605; visitors to ref. room 8218 (six months only). New borrowers 2045; total registration 8861. Receipts \$23,973.14; expenses \$23,555.92.

"Since our last annual report four delivery stations have been established for the benefit of those residing at a distance from the main library. They are located in the branch reading-rooms at the extreme eastern, northern, and western parts of the city. There is a notable increase in the number of books called for as well as an improvement in the character of books read, notwithstanding the fact that the borrowers are at a loss to know what to send for, owing to the lack of a catalog or printed lists of the books in the main library.

"The central reading-room, which from the inception of the library has occupied the lower floor of the library building, has been removed to more convenient quarters within a short distance of the library. This change has proved eminently satisfactory to the patrons of the reading-room. By the change we were enabled to fit up the lower floor of the library building as a delivery-room, removing some 10,000 volumes from the overcrowded room above. The removal of these books permitted us to arrange and display to better advantage the remaining 20,000 volumes, and convert the room into a quiet reading and reference department. This department is now in charge of an able assistant, who will devote his time to assisting students and others in their research."

The trustees call attention to the fact that "the work of cataloging the library is nearing completion. This has taken longer than was anticipated, but has been done in a thoroughly scientific manner and need never be done again. The Rudolph indexer system having been substituted for the antiquated card-catalog system, the catalog is readily accessible to every one visiting the library. But there is demand for a printed finding-list that can be consulted at home, and there is no doubt that such a publication would greatly add to the popularity and usefulness of the library and materially increase the efficiency of the delivery-station system. No catalog has been issued since 1885, and as the number of volumes in the library has trebled since then, it is practically useless."

At a city council meeting, held on September 11, \$2000 was voted to the library for the printing of a catalog, in accordance with the suggestion of the trustees, that sum being half of the amount asked for.

*Omaha (Neb.) P. L.* A children's department has been established, with free access to the shelves. The return and delivery of books and the reading of magazines by children are conducted here instead of in the main departments, as heretofore, with most satisfactory results.

*Peoria (Ill.) P. L.* The corner-stone of the new library building was laid on the afternoon of September 30, a few of the directors and



friends of the association being present. The exercises were conducted by Librarian E. S. Willcox. The erection of the building will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

*Philadelphia.* **THE PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY** (in Phila. *Inquirer*, Sept. 22), 4½ col., il.

An account of the organization, growth, and present condition of the Library Company of Philadelphia, describing some of the more valuable books in the collection; illustrated with four cuts of the various library buildings.

*Philadelphia.* T. Morris Perot, president of the Mercantile Library, on October 1 addressed to the city councils a letter in which he offered to make the Mercantile Library a free public library on condition that the city appropriate a sufficient annual amount to cover its maintenance. In his letter, after giving a short history of the library and describing the extent of the collection, Mr. Perot says: "It is proposed to give to the citizens of Philadelphia the full use of this valuable library, and it is offered to the city so as to make it a public institution, open and free to all, the city being asked only to appropriate annually such a sum as will maintain it. Further, if so desired, this institution will accept the care of the libraries established by councils in several parts of the city and continue them as branch libraries. This will make these libraries doubly or trebly valuable to the people of the neighborhoods in which they are situated, as the main library can at any time throw into any of these branches 10,000, 20,000, or 30,000 volumes. If necessary it can, by establishing express wagons between the main library and the branches, deliver books from one to the other several times daily, thus giving to these branches the advantage of 180,000 volumes, in addition to those owned by themselves."

The directors of the library do not, however, propose to turn its administration over to others. The ownership and control of the entire property is to continue, as heretofore, in their hands, with the addition of three ex-officio trustees from the city government. Owing to this fact and the impossibility of consolidating the library — as a central public library — under these conditions with the various smaller libraries now established, it is a question if the offer will be accepted.

*Piermont (N. Y.) P. L.* The new library building was opened for inspection on the evening of September 16. The library is an outgrowth of the local Village Improvement Association and begins work with about 100 volumes, supplied by the Regents of the state university.

*Richmond, Ind.* **Morrisson-Reeves L.** The beautiful memorial window, given to the library in memory of Robert Morrisson, its founder, by his great-grandchildren Bertha and James W. Morrisson, is described and illustrated in an artistic little pamphlet recently issued by the library committee. The window illustrates the discovery of printing by Gutenberg. The central

window shows Gutenberg in the act of drawing a printed sheet from the press, and showing to his companions, Fust and Schoeller, the practicability of his invention. The smaller windows above depict representative facts in the history of literature and printing; these include the names, dates, and arms of Molière, Lope de Vega, Dante, and Goethe; the book-marks of Caxton, Manutius, Vostre, and Plantin; and the names, dates, and arms of Chaucer, Bacon, Shakespeare, and Milton.

*Rochester, N. Y.* **Reynolds Library.** On October 1 the library was opened in its new home without formal ceremonies. There was a large and interested attendance of visitors.

*St. Joseph (Mo.) P. L.* (5th rpt.) Added 1551; total 12,859. Issued, home use 108,882 (fict. and juv. .818 %); ref. use 915 (no record of general ref. use is kept).

"A large number of pictures accumulated in the library have been mounted on stiff paper and sent in portfolios to the schools for the use of the younger scholars. These pictures serve to illustrate history and geography lessons, educate the taste of the little ones and give them pleasure in beautiful things, and have been highly appreciated by both teachers and scholars."

"A list of 100 good novels published in December has been influential in improving the class of novels read."

*San Francisco (Cal.) F. L.* It has been decided to establish a children's department in a room on the second floor of the library building, heretofore used as a ladies' reading-room. It will be well provided with periodicals and accessible books, and will be used both as a delivery-room and a reading-room.

**SHAW, W. B.** The Carnegie libraries: notes on a popular educational movement in "the greater Pittsburgh." (In *Review of reviews*, Oct., p. 429-435.) il.

An interesting account of the Carnegie Free Library of Alleghany, the Carnegie Free Library of Braddock, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, illustrated with views of the interiors and exteriors of the buildings and portraits of the librarians.

*Somerville (Mass.) P. L.* The library was reopened on October 1, after having been closed for alterations since July. The book-stacks have been entirely rearranged and a second tier put in, several new windows have been made, and a large book-lift has been installed. The books have been reclassified according to the D. C., and a new catalog has been prepared and printed.

*South Norwalk (Ct.) P. L.* (5th rpt.) Added 313; total 3182. Issued 17,710. New card-holders 264; total membership 1091; visitors to library, 39,903.

Miss Scott urges the need of more shelf-room and of several standard reference-books.

*South Orange (N. J.) P. L.* The trustees have adopted plans prepared by Stephenson & Greene, of New York, for a new library building, to be erected on the lot given for the purpose by Eugene V. Connett, the village president. The building will have a frontage of 54 feet, with a depth of 30 feet. While simple in design, the general effect will be pleasing, the high peaked roof covered with red slate being broken by a half-dormer, relieving its plainness. The building is to be constructed of Indianastone up to the water-table, and above that point of gray pressed brick. The trimmings will also be of Indiana stone. The main entrance will be by a wide flight of stone steps leading up to a fine Norman arch. A wide hall runs through the centre of the building, at the rear of which is the librarian's office, opening through wide arches into the library-room proper on the one side, and into the reading-room on the other. There is also to be a trustees' room and the usual offices. The library will have shelving accommodation for 25,000 v., and the alcoves and shelves will be of oak, cabinet finished. The same trim will be used throughout the entire building. Provision is to be made in the erection of the walls for the putting in of a mezzanine floor of iron whenever in the future this may be desirable, and in this way nearly doubling the shelving capacity. Ground is to be broken at once, and it is hoped to have the building ready for use early next year.

*Southampton, L. I. Rogers Memorial L.* The Rogers Memorial Library was formally opened on Sept. 28, in the presence of a large audience, who later inspected and admired the building.

The building was designed by R. H. Robertson, a New York architect, who for many years has been a summer resident of Southampton. It is built of hard burned North River brick, with a slated roof, and stands upon the site of the old Southampton academy in the centre of the village, presenting a fine frontage of more than 100 feet, with open spaces on all sides. The plan embraces at the west end a handsome hall, with a seating capacity for 250 people. It is also provided with a large well-lighted reading-room, a reference and librarian's room, and in the centre, lighted from above, is the fire-proof room, of a capacity for the safe keeping of 20,000 volumes. Above are apartments for the custodian. The library cost \$20,000, and was built by Holland Emslie, of Cornwall Landing, New York. In addition to the Rogers bequest the sum of \$5115 was raised by private subscription, which is to be kept as a permanent maintenance fund. The trustees expect also that the hall will yield a good return. The library begins with about 1000 volumes of standard and popular books, to be increased by the active co-operation of an experienced committee.

*University of Illinois, Champaign.* Plans for the new library building, for which the last legislature awarded \$150,000, were selected on Sept. 22. The plans were submitted in competition, and four were selected as prize-winners. The first choice was given to the designs of E. G. Bolles, of Springfield, the three other archi-

itects receiving prizes of from \$300 to \$100, respectively. The plans chosen call for an artistic two-story building, having east and west fronts exactly alike. The main entrances are through great archways and are reached by steps down to the basement and up to the main floor, all steps being within the loggia. On the first floor are the main reading-room, periodical-room, reference-rooms, parlors, librarian's room, delivery-desk, etc. The arrangement of this floor gives from the delivery-desk an unobstructed view of almost the entire floor-space. The reading-room, 60 by 90, takes the north portion of the floor and extends up through the second story. The administrative offices will be on the second floor. Entering the rotunda from the west, the president's suite of rooms lies to the left, trustees' rooms to the right, registrar's and business agent's rooms directly in front. At the north end of the rotunda is a gallery separated from and overlooking the main reading-room on the first floor. There are three book-rooms, each having shelving capacity for 54,432 volumes, or a total of 163,296. The walls of the book-rooms are to be hollow, with inner shell of buff-enamelled brick. The interior construction is to be of the steel skeleton order, with porous tile fire-proofing, all heavy inner walls to be of brick. The exterior walls are to be of stone backed with brick, two colors of stone being used, one for the body, the other for trimming. Marble wainscoting and frescoing will be used throughout the structure. It is the intention to make the building as nearly fire-proof as it can be made, and to equip it with every convenience of the most modern and approved design.

*Washington, D. C. Congressional L.* Work is now in progress upon the underground book railway, which is to be put in operation between the capitol and the new Congressional Library building. A trench 1100 feet long has been made across the capitol park, and in it will be constructed a brick conduit six feet high and four feet wide, which will enter the basement of the library building and the basement of the capitol, connecting by shafts with the main floors of both buildings. A small cable will be run through this conduit, upon which will travel two book-carriers. Telephone wires will also be laid between the buildings, and it is thought that in this way it will be feasible to supply books directly to congressmen with ease and rapidity.

*Washington Heights (N. Y. City) F. L.* (27th rpt.) Added 626; total 10,063. Issued 22,552; visitors to reading-room 7652. Receipts \$2512.19; expenses \$1935.83.

"The increase in the number of books purchased has necessitated an increase in our shelving room, and we have about reached the limit of our present quarters. We have an average of about 30 readers per day making use of our reading-room."

*Whippany, N. J.* The Mrs. J. F. Roberts Memorial Library was formally opened in Whiponong Hall, in this town, on Labor Day. It contains about 2000 v.

## FOREIGN.

*Leipzig, Germany.* The name of C. F. Peters, the Leipzig firm of music publishers, whose "Edition Peters" has long been the "hall mark" of the best in musical literature, is destined to be perpetuated in the Musikbibliothek Peters, dedicated January 2, 1894. The library, which has been open to the public over a year and a half, contains about 10,000 volumes, including the works of the leading composers. Among the curiosities of the library are the complete manuscript scores of a number of operas that have never been printed. The first annual report, edited by Emil Vogel, contains a bibliography of books on music and periodicals devoted to the subject issued in 1894; also, a list of the musical libraries of Europe. According to this list Germany has 103 libraries with more or less extensive collections of music, and 14 libraries devoted wholly to music; Austro-Hungary 39 general, 43 special; Switzerland, 9 general, 1 special; Italy, 60 general, 5 special; Spain, 7 general; France, 25 general, 5 special; Belgium and Holland, 12 general, 5 special; Great Britain and Ireland, 28 general, 4 special; Denmark and Sweden, 5 general, 1 special; and Russia, 3 general. In an appendix are printed to hitherto unknown letters by Franz Schubert, edited by Max Friedlaender. — (*Jahrbuch der Musikbibliothek Peters für 1894*, 1. Jahrg. hrsg. von Emil Vogel. Leipzig, C. F. Peters, 1895. 116 p. O. pap.)

*Uppsala (Sweden) Univ. L.* A history of Uppsala University, by Claes Annerstedt, the chief librarian, has been recently issued which gives an interesting account of the development of the library up to 1702. Although the university was founded in 1477, it cannot be said to have had a library before 1620, when Gustavus Adolphus gave to the university his private library, kept in the former monastery of the Gray Friars at Stockholm. Before that time the professors of the university had used the library belonging to the cathedral. During the times of the Thirty Years' War the library several times received from the king and from successful generals gifts of the libraries of several Catholic monasteries, among others those of Braunsberg and Würzburg. Another of its early benefactors was the favorite of Queen Christina, Count Magnus Gabriel De la Gardie, who gave to it in 1669 65 manuscripts, among them the famous "Codex Argenteus," the oldest specimen of Teutonic literature. After his death the library received, in accordance with his will, his own private collection, which was the finest then in the possession of any Swedish private man. The first 82 years of the library's history, here told, were uneventful. Narrow quarters, insufficient means, carelessness and bad management on the part of the authorities are the main characteristics. But the library grew. At the end of the 17th century it contained 30,000 volumes, most of them foreign, and the greater part Latin, works. In 1675 there were only 80 Swedish works, but in 1692 the library received the copyright privilege, although the printers were at first not over-anx-

ious to obey the law in this respect. The librarians were taken from among the professors, and held the office in addition to work in the latter capacity. The work fell mostly on the amanuensis, who at the end of the period had the title of vice-librarian. In 1702 the post of librarian was assigned to Erik Benzellus, and under his régime the library entered on a new and more prosperous career. The present volume by the chief librarian of the library is, it is to be hoped, only the first instalment of a complete history of the institution. A. G. S. J.—(*Uppsala Universitets historia intill år 1702*. Stockholm, P. A. Norstedt & Soner, 1894. 119 p. O.)

## PRACTICAL NOTES.

PASTING BOOK-PLATES. — Miss C. R. Barnett, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, sends the following useful suggestion as to pasting book-plates: "Some of the readers of the LIBRARY JOURNAL may be glad to hear of a simple little device for pasting book-plates. Put a number of book-plates together so as to form a block about three centimetres in thickness. Make the sides perfectly even, and then paste a piece of paper on one side, thus making a block or pad of book-plates. When the back of the book-plate has been pasted it can easily be detached from the block. This solid block of book-plates is much more convenient than having a block of wood on which to rest the book-plate while it is being pasted. There is no danger of the book-plate slipping off the block, nor of getting paste on the front of the book-plate."

## Librarians.

ALLAN, Miss Jessie, librarian of the Omaha (Neb.) City Library, died on September 12, after a lingering illness. The cause of her death was consumption, which attacked her in the autumn of 1893, and in the opinion of her physician was contracted in the handling of books infected with tuberculosis germs. For the past two years Miss Allan fought the disease bravely, trying different climates and methods of treatment, but without avail. Miss Allan was connected with the Omaha Library for 14 years and had been librarian for 10 years. She was born in Omaha, December 15, 1861, her family being among the pioneer settlers. In 1881, on leaving the high school, she entered the library as an assistant. In 1883 she was made acting librarian, and in the following year, when her sister, who was then librarian, resigned the position, she was elected librarian. In November, 1893, she was granted leave of absence on account of ill-health, and during her frequent long and sad vacations since that time her personal work at the library was necessarily slight. A week or so before her death she resigned her position on account of the condition of her health, and in accepting the resignation the following resolutions were passed by the board of directors:

"The directors of the Omaha Public Library, for themselves and the reading public of Omaha, desire to express

to Miss Jessie Allan their sincere appreciation of her long, faithful, and efficient service as librarian. The best growth of the library has been coincident with Miss Allan's management and in large measure due to her personal effort. She brought to the work of librarian a natural aptitude, but over and above that she showed a peculiar alertness to the needs of the reading public and a zeal in meeting them that more than anything else established the present popularity of the library."

Miss Allan was an active member of the American Library Association, and had attended the conferences from 1888 to 1893, with the exception of the 1889 (Catskill) conference. She was vice-president of the Nebraska Library Association, and was always an interested and effective worker in library matters. She was well known and loved in Omaha and had many warm friends in the A. L. A. and in her profession generally.

The Omaha *World-Herald* says: "She was a little woman, alert and keen, a mere bundle of nerves and intelligence, and with a sort of genius for the work which she assumed. There are born librarians as well as born poets, and Miss Allan was emphatically the former. A knowledge of books came to her as easily as a knowledge of music comes to some persons. Moreover, her knowledge was not sporadic, nor her interest impulsive. She loved books well enough to be willing to labor long and hard, in order that they might be made useful to others. She was in touch with each improvement in the conduct of libraries, and the Omaha Library has been recataloged in the most improved manner, with various devices for assisting borrowers to the volume they desire. Much of this cataloging was done by Miss Allan when she was not in a condition to do any work whatever, but she had a strong spirit and an unflinching ambition that sustained her when others would have yielded to their pains and lassitude. Under Miss Allen's management there was always the most obliging service at the library. No reference was so remote that Miss Allan or her assistants, acting upon her instructions, would not endeavor to find it. No request was so preposterous that it would not be given respectful consideration. One who has had experience in the libraries of other cities must be keenly aware of the fact that in the Omaha Library was to be found unusual courtesy and obligingness. In short, Miss Allan, in the days of her health and vigor, was possessed of a strong public spirit, and she was determined to make the library as useful as possible to this community. She was well aware of the fact that it was a community which needed many books and good books, and exerted herself to make those books available to all, and to encourage those who needed them to borrow from the public shelves. A memory of the tall, vivacious, friendly little face of the librarian, of her trig little figure in its dark dress, of her large brow, and intense mentality, her hearty handshake, her reliable knowledge, will linger long with those who knew her. She was a 'gallant lady' and served this city well."

BARGER, Thomas. Owing to failing health and increasing years, the library committee of

the Liverpool (Eng.) Free Library, under whom he has served now for the long period of 43 years, have decided to recommend that a superannuation allowance be made to Thomas Barger, keeper at the Free Library, William Brown street, Liverpool. Mr. Barger joined the Free Library staff on the day the library was opened in Duke street, October 18, 1852. He has served under three chairmen and under three librarians—the late John Stuart Dalton, the late George Hudson, and the present librarian, Peter Cowell. During the cotton famine at the time of the American Civil War, some 30 to 35 years ago, Mr. Barger's services were specially in request, the attendance at William Brown street increasing so enormously that the corridors and ante-rooms at the library had to be fitted up, lighted, and requisitioned for readers; an attendance of 750 at one time and a daily issue of 3000 volumes was no uncommon record. After a long and meritorious service, laden with years, at the age of nearly 78, Mr. Barger retires with the respect and earnest good wishes of all his colleagues.

BARROWS, Benjamin H., was on September 9 elected librarian of the Omaha (Neb.) City Library, succeeding the late Miss Jessie Allan. Mr. Barrows was born in Davenport, Ia., in 1848, and came to Omaha in 1870, where for 12 years he was city editor of the *Republican*. He was for some years U. S. Consul at Dublin, and has always been strongly identified with journalistic matters. He was one of the original directors of the Omaha City Library in 1872, and has shown constant interest in its development.

HECKMAN, Frank B., of Philadelphia, was on September 26 appointed librarian of Branch No. 6 of the Philadelphia Public libraries newly opened in Germantown.

MCCRORY, Miss Harriette, of the Pratt Institute library training class of 1895, has been appointed librarian of the Millersville (Pa.) Normal School.

MORSE, Miss Anna, librarian of the Millbury (Mass.) Free Public Library, resigned her position on September 19, to take up the study of library work. She is now enrolled in the junior class of the N. Y. State Library School.

NELSON, Miss Sarah C., a graduate of the Pratt Institute library training class of 1892, has been appointed assistant librarian of the new Blackstone Memorial Library of Branford, Ct. Miss Nelson after her graduation was cataloger at the Wilmington (Del.) Institute Free Library when it was reorganized by Mr. A. W. Tyler, recently appointed librarian of the Blackstone Memorial Library. Later she cataloged the Stoneham (Mass.) Public Library.

SAUNDERS, John M., for 52 years librarian of the Woodbury (N. J.) Library Co., died at his home in Woodbury on September 6, aged 83 years. Mr. Saunders was a member of the Society of Friends, and one of the pioneers of the town, in which he had filled many positions of public trust.



SMITH, Charles W., was on September 4 elected librarian of the Seattle (Wash.) City Library, succeeding John D. Atkinson, resigned. Mr. Smith has been for the past few years in a Seattle law office. He was a student of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Ct., and has been librarian of the Cayuga County (N. Y.) Historical Society, and of the Ives Seminary, Antwerp, N. Y.

UPHAM, Warren, secretary and librarian of the Western Reserve Historical Society of Cleveland, O., was on September 10 appointed secretary and librarian of the Minnesota State Historical Society, succeeding ex-Governor Marshall, resigned.

VAN HOVENBERG, Miss Alma Rogers, on August 1, became assistant librarian of the Washington Heights (N. Y. City) Free Library, succeeding Miss J. P. Price, who had been in the library 22 years.

### Cataloging and Classification.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. *Publishing Section*. List of books for girls and women and their clubs; edited by Augusta H. Leyboldt and George Hies. Part 4: Education and science. Bost., Library Bureau, 1895. 98 p. Tt. pap., 10 c.

*The Book-Leaf*, published by the Carson Harper Co., of Denver, which now contains the "Denver Public Library lists," has in its September number a 4-p. list of "Books on education in the Public School Library, September, 1895."

FOSTER'S MONTHLY REFERENCE LISTS for September (Providence P. L. Bulletin) cover "Yachts and yachting" and "The White Mountains."

GERMANIA MÄNNERCHOR, *Chicago*. Catalog der Deutsch-amerikanischen bibliothek des Germania Männerchor, 1894. Chicago, 1895. 39 p. il. S.

A neatly printed little catalog, listing, by author only, some 500 books.

E. LEMCKE (B. Westermann & Co., New York) has issued the second part of his "Catalogue raisonné of world literature." This covers "French literature: the classics and belles lettres" in the same admirable fashion that Part I. covered German literature. These catalogs, though, of course, publishers' sales lists, are admirable in selection, arrangement, and annotation, and have proved helpful guides to many librarians.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB has issued the first of the monthly annotated lists of select fiction (for September, 1895), which were planned at the meeting held in Boston, March 1, 1895. The permanent committee of selection

consists of a chairman (Gardner M. Jones), a secretary (Miss N. E. Browne), and 15 readers. The readers are divided into sub-committees of three members. The chairman and secretary select such books as they think desirable to have examined, the lists being limited to fiction for adults, and send them to members of sub-committees for that purpose. All books recommended by each one of the three members of a sub-committee are placed on the list, the annotations being prepared from the comments of the readers. List 1 comprises 14 books, chosen from 31 submitted to the readers; the selection shows excellent judgment and the notes bring out the character of the book with terseness and lucidity. The lists are especially intended for the smaller libraries, which have a limited amount of money to spend for new books, and to such libraries they should prove a helpful guide. Members of the Massachusetts Library Club receive the list gratuitously; other persons or libraries may obtain them by subscription at 25 cents a year, all subscriptions to be sent to the secretary of the committee, Miss Nina E. Browne, of the Library Bureau, 146 Franklin St., Boston.

NATIONALIST CIRCULATING L., *Austin, Tex.* Catalogue; revised edition. 18 p. 10 c.

A primitive little catalog, listing, by title only, 541 books—a mixed assortment of novels, sprinkled with a few poems, histories, biographies, etc.

THE OTIS LIBRARY (*Norwich, Mass.*) BULLETIN contains in its September issue a "List of American historical novels in the library."

THE SALEM (*Mass.*) P. L. BULLETIN (September) contains special reading lists on "Woman" and "Reading and the choice of books."

SANBORN, Miss Kate E., has just completed and Mr. C. A. Cutter is now printing an alphabetic order table for the consonants except S carried to the third figure (e.g., Ba 111, Bab 112, Babe 113), and therefore nine times as long as the consonant part of the original Cutter's Tables. It has long been evident that a table of this sort is needed for large collections kept in a single alphabet, like Biography and Fiction. Miss Sanborn had already prepared a three-figure table for the vowels and S, which can be procured of Miss Weeks at the Boston Athenæum, or of the Library Bureau. The new work will soon be for sale at the same places.

THE SPRINGFIELD (*Mass.*) L. BULLETIN for Aug. - Sept. has a short list of "Readings for English history."

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE. Library bulletin, August, 1895. Accessions to the department library April - June, 1895. 12 p. Q.

### FULL NAMES.

Supplied by Harvard College Library.

Halbert, H: Sale, and Ball, Timothy Horton (The Creek war of 1813 and 1814);

Osborn, Frank Chittenden (Tables of moments of inertia);  
 Phelps, James Turner (Life insurance sayings);  
 Porter, T. Conrad (A list of the grasses of Pennsylvania);  
 Wellman, T. Bartholomew (History of the town of Lynnfield, Mass.);  
 Weston, James A. (Historic doubts as to the execution of Marshal Ney);  
 Williams, H. Eugene (Temperatures injurious to food products in storage and during transportation).

### Bibliography.

GAGNON, P. *Essai de bibliographie canadienne: inventaire d'une bibliothèque comprenant imprimés, manuscrits, estampes, etc. relatifs à l'histoire du Canada et des pays adjacents avec des notes bibliographiques*. Québec, 1895. 711 p. 8°.

JAMES, M. R. *Descriptive catalogue of the mss. in the library of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge*. Cambridge, Univ. Press, 1895. 132 p. 8°, 5s.

THE "Life of Sir James Fitzjames Stephen," by his brother, Leslie Stephen, recently published by Putnam, contains in an appendix a bibliography of the principal works of Sir James Stephen.

THE MICHIGAN SCHOOLMASTERS' CLUB has prepared, through a special committee, an interesting "List of books recommended for a high school classical library." It is a careful bibliography of the most essential and helpful books in classical teaching, and was compiled with the co-operation of representative classical teachers in different parts of the country. The list is divided into 11 divisions, including books of reference, Greek and Latin languages, Greek and Latin literatures, religion and mythology, public affairs, private affairs, the fine arts, philosophy and science, miscellaneous essays, influence of Greece and Rome, and English novels, illustrating the life of classical antiquity. It comprises about 480 titles, giving place and date of publication, publisher and price, and is issued by Sheehan & Co., of Ann Arbor.

POHLER, J. *Bibliotheca historico-militaris: systematische übersicht der erscheinungen auf dem gebiete der geschichte der kriege und kriegswissenschaft seit erfundung der buchdruckerkunst bis zum schluss des jahres 1880*. Band 3, Heft 5. Kassel, Kessler, 1895. 565-773 p. 8°. 8 m.

"PRIMITIVE man," by E. Clodd, a recent issue in Appletons' "Library of useful stories," contains a selected book list on the subject (2 p.), with suggestions for supplementary reading.

RAINES, C. W. A bibliography of Texas; or, a descriptive list of books, pamphlets, and documents relating to Texas, in print and ms., since 1536. Austin, Tex., C. W. Raines, 1895. 200 p., 8°. \$3; pap., \$2.

SLANE, Baron de. *Catalogue des manuscrits arabes du département des manuscrits de la Bibliothèque nationale; fasc 3*. Paris, Impr. nationale, 1895. 657-820 p. 4°.

SAMMLUNG bibliothekswissenschaftlicher arbeiten, herausg. v. K. Dziatzko. Heft 8: beiträge zur theorie u. praxis des buch- und bibliothekswesens. II. Leipzig, M. Spitzgatis, 1895. 121 p., 6 facsim. gr. 8°. 6 m.

THOMPSON, Corrie L. *Light railways: a catalogue of books, reports, papers, and articles relating to light railways*. Lond., P. S. King & Son, 1895. 2s. 6d.

Mr. Thompson is assistant librarian of the Institution of Civil Engineers. His catalog includes not only references to English writers, but also to French, German, and Italian publications.

"WHITE servitude in the Colony of Virginia," by James Curtis Ballagh, a recent issue of the Johns Hopkins University studies (13th ser., no. 6-7, 50 c.), contains a 4-p. bibliography of the system of indentured white labor practised in the American colonies.

WILLIAM OF ORANGE. A good 4-p. bibliography of William I. is appended to Ruth Putnam's "William the Silent, Prince of Orange." (N. Y., Putnam, 1895. 2 v., \$3.75.)

### Famors and Blunders.

At the book-counter of one of the large New York department stores a would-be customer recently asked: "Have you 'Ivanhoe'?"

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"Wiggin, Timothy's guest."—F.

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[Mr. Foster] "has resumed the publication of his 'monthly reference-lists.' This will be good news to the many who for years found these lists among the most useful of bibliographical aids. The lists are now issued in the MONTHLY BULLETIN of the Providence Public Library."—*Publishers' Weekly*, Feb. 2, 1895.

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